

ILLUSTRATED TALES TO BEWITCH & BEDEVIL YOU

VAMPIRELLA

A WARREN MAGAZINE PDC \$1.00 588856

**SUPER
SPECIAL
ISSUE**



EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VAMPIRELLA BUT NOBODY EVER TOLD YOU...

Who is VAMPIRELLA? From whence did she come? Actually, the story traces all the way back to Jean-Claude Forest's "Barbarella," the French comic strip made into a motion picture by Dino De Laurentis. According to her publisher and mentor, Jim Warren, Jane Fonda's conception of Barbarella provided the catalyst for VAMPIRELLA.

Conceived in the early part of 1969, VAMPI took shape after Warren studied some "terrifically imaginative" stills from the movie. "I wanted a female comic character. VAMPIRELLA was to be a living, breathing creature in the spirit of the European comic heroine rather than in that of the tired, lifeless American mold."

Thus, the reason for her origin story, "VAMPIRELLA of Drakulon," written by Famous Monsters Editor Forrest J. Ackerman for VAMPIRELLA #1. Neither Creepy nor Eerie have had series like VAMPIRELLA's because they are closer to comic characters than real-life flesh and blood.

Even in Ackerman's tongue-in-cheek origin story, the basic message of VAMPIRELLA rang true. She was an alien being from a far distant world who lived by instinct, killing only for self-survival rather than for sport.

Unlike Barbarella who was a space hopper, an interplanetary

jet-setter, VAMPIRELLA was closer to a human being with all the problems and conflicts attendant in being alive.

Drakulon, VAMPIRELLA's home planet, was portrayed as a dying world. Just as water is the sustaining life force on Earth, its counterpart on the planet Drakulon was blood. When the planet's twin suns began spinning out of control, Drakulon's rivers of blood dried up. There was nothing left to sustain life. VAMPIRELLA's adventures began with her fateful departure from Drakulon.

Warren's preliminary sketches of VAMPI were sent to Ackerman in Los Angeles with instructions to create the first episode. Meanwhile, a contest was held at Warren Publishing in New York to determine the name of the new character. It involved an open offer to several people working on the production of the book. Title winner was Ackerman himself who wrote her first and second segments, "VAMPIRELLA of Drakulon" in VAMPIRELLA #1 and "Down to Earth!" in VAMPIRELLA #2.

With the exception of "Down to Earth!" which was drawn by Mike Royer, artist Tom Sutton rendered VAMPI's adventures up to VAMPIRELLA #11. Since VAMPIRELLA #12, her illustrator has been Jose Gonzalez, who was profiled in VAMPIRELLA #16, p.54.

VAMPIRELLA writers include Ackerman; J.R. Cochran (author of her second origin story, titled "The Origin of VAMPIRELLA" from the VAMPIRELLA 1972 YEARBOOK); Archie Goodwin (author through VAMPIRELLA #s 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16); and T. Casey Brennan, her current scripter.

For his authorship of the VAMPIRELLA series, Goodwin re-



Trina Robbins, underground cartoonist and VAMPIRELLA's costume designer.

ceived a Warren Award for Best All Around Writer in 1971.

The original costume design for VAMPI was created through the joint efforts of Warren, Frank Frazetta and underground artist Trina Robbins of "All Girl Comics" and "It Ain't Me Babe."

Trina was visiting Warren's office while he was on the phone with Frank Frazetta, describing possible costumes for VAMPI. After listening a few minutes, Trina interrupted the conversation and took it from there. (For more info on the origin of VAMPIRELLA's costume, see the letters pages of VAMPIRELLA #s 11 & 13.) Trina described her concept of VAMPI's costume to Frazetta who followed her instructions to the letter. However, he added little touches of his own including the serpentine bracelet on her arm and the bat design below her navel.

Frazetta originally wanted her as a blonde, but Warren held out for raven-colored tresses which would offset her shimmering red costume. Drakulina, who briefly introduced VAMPI's second tale "Down to Earth!" in VAMPIRELLA #2, was the blonde in the family. "I envisioned VAMPIRELLA with black bangs because as a kid, the first real love of my life had black bangs," Warren said, adding that he recommended her high boots to complete the ensemble.

Frazetta produced a black and white drawing of VAMPIRELLA which was sent to Tom Sutton for his completion of Ackerman's first story, "VAMPIRELLA of Drakulon." Frazetta's black and white sketches appeared on the inside front cover of VAMPIRELLA #1 and the inside back cover of VAMPIRELLA #7. The sketches provided a basis for Sutton's artwork while Frazetta's final cover painting for VAMPIRELLA #1 ran unchanged.

VAMPIRELLA was young and unproven as a magazine when she began. "I didn't really know then where we wanted to take her," Warren said. "There is a real difference between the first VAMPIRELLA stories because of that. We've taken it out of the tongue-in-cheek category represented by the first two episodes."

Under scripter Archie Goodwin's tutelage, VAMPIRELLA's innate conflict came more and more into focus. With the introduction of Doctor Conrad Van Helsing and his son, Adam, in "Who Serves the Cause of Chaos?" (VAMPIRELLA #8). Goodwin laid the groundwork for a continuing cast of characters, bound and determined to rid the world forever of the curse of vampirism.

Conrad and Adam Van Helsing are the modern descendants of the original Van Helsing character from Bram Stoker's terror classic "Dracula" and Doctors Abraham and Boris Van Helsing from Archie Goodwin's sequel "The Coffin of Dracula" from Creepy #s 8 & 9 (reprinted in Creepy #48).

Although the Van Helsing's followed VAMPIRELLA through "Who Serves the Cause of Chaos?" (VAMPIRELLA #8) and "The Testing!" (VAMPIRELLA #9), they remained in the background, not

surfacing to meet VAMPIRELLA until "Carnival of the Damned!" (VAMPIRELLA #11). Before striking out at VAMPIRELLA, Conrad Van Helsing had to be absolutely certain that it was she who had murdered his brother, Kurt, turning him into a vampire like herself. Vowing to find and destroy the vampire beast responsible for Kurt's everlasting death, Conrad drove a stake through his brother's heart in "Who Serves the Cause of Chaos?"

While scripter, Goodwin never revealed who, in fact, actually murdered Kurt and thereby renewed the ancient Van Helsing mission to destroy vampirism. Has Conrad been on the wrong trail? Adam Van Helsing seems to think so. "In the past I've never doubted that we, like Van Helsing's before us, were right in what we're doing," he said in "Carnival of the Damned!" (VAMPIRELLA #11). "Yet since we've been tracking this girl... Call it a feeling, maybe I've inherited a little of your psychic power, but she doesn't seem like the others! For the first time, I feel like a murderer!"

Unable to convince himself of the justness of his father's cause, Adam has waged an inner battle within himself, whether to recognize or deny the feelings of love he has for the girl called VAMPIRELLA. From their very first meeting in

CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER!



The fabulous cover of VAMPIRELLA #1



From Barbarella came VAMPIRELLA.



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VAMPIRELLA

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THE SOFT SWEET LIPS OF HELL A succubus, she travelled the winds of night, her awesome beauty a golden lure to trap unwary men. From VAMPIRELLA #10.

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THE SILVER THIEF AND THE PHAROAH'S DAUGHTER Warned of the consequences, good Arquamon lived his life out in silence, telling no one until the end. From VAMPIRELLA #13.

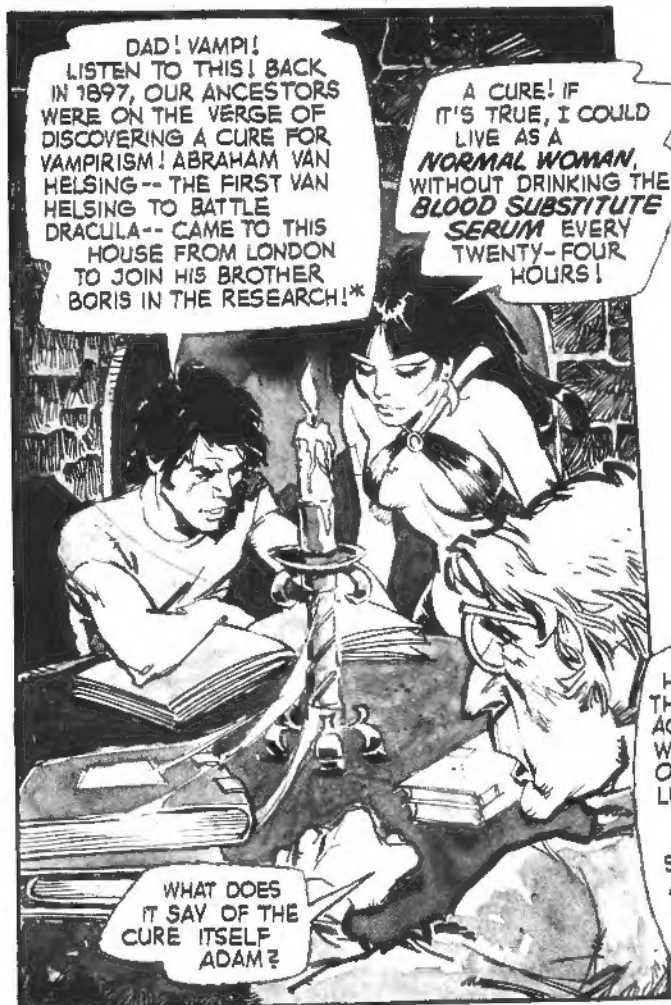
PROLOGUE: 1897-- SOMEWHERE IN MAINE, A COACH MAKES ITS WAY TOWARD THE ANCIENT VAN HELSING MANSION. AT THE FEET OF THE RIDERS LIES A STRANGE CARGO, A COFFIN WHICH HAS CROSSED THE NORTH ATLANTIC, ENROUTE FROM LONDON, TO FULFILL A STRANGE DESTINY! BUT STRANGE STILL, IS A PASSENGER ACCOMPANYING THAT COFFIN. TO HER COMPANIONS, ABRAHAM VAN HELSING AND JONATHAN AND MINA HARKER, SHE IS KNOWN AS ELLA NORMANDY, LABORATORY ASSISTANT TO DR. VAN HELSING! BUT SHE IS KNOWN BY ANOTHER NAME--FOR THIS IS THE GIRL WHO TRAVELLED TO EARTH FROM THE VAMPIRE-WORLD OF DRAKULON--AND WHOSE TRAVELS HAVE BROUGHT HER NOW TO THE DIM AND DISTANT PAST! THIS IS...

VAMPIRELLA

ANOTHER TIME --
ANOTHER CAUSE! EVEN
MODERN DAY EARTH WAS
STRANGE TO ME! BUT NOW-
THROUGH WITCHCRAFT- I
FIND MYSELF IN THE YEAR
1897, SEEKING A CURE FOR
VAMPIRISM! IF I SUCCEED,
PERHAPS I CAN FIND
PEACE AT LAST, SOME-
THING I HAVE NOT YET
KNOWN ON THIS
PLANET!



"IT ALL BEGAN WHEN, IN THE PRESENT, ADAM FOUND A SECRET ROOM IN THE VAN HELSING ANCESTRAL MANSION, AND BEGAN TO READ THE AGING DOCUMENTS HIDDEN THERE..."



DAD! VAMPI!
LISTEN TO THIS! BACK
IN 1897, OUR ANCESTORS
WERE ON THE VERGE OF
DISCOVERING A CURE FOR
VAMPIRISM! ABRAHAM VAN
HELSEING-- THE FIRST VAN
HELSEING TO BATTLE
DRACULA-- CAME TO THIS
HOUSE FROM LONDON
TO JOIN HIS BROTHER
BORIS IN THE RESEARCH!*

A CURE! IF
IT'S TRUE, I COULD
LIVE AS A
NORMAL WOMAN,
WITHOUT DRINKING THE
**BLOOD SUBSTITUTE
SERUM** EVERY
TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS!

WHAT DOES
IT SAY OF THE
CURE ITSELF
ADAM?



THAT'S JUST IT! IT SAYS NOTHING!
THE REMAINING PAPERS HAVE
BEEN DESTROYED SOMEHOW!

WHAT
CAN IT ALL
MEAN,
THEN?

IT *MAY* MEAN THEY
FAILED! OR, IT MAY MEAN
THEY *DID* FIND THE CURE,
BUT THE RECORDS WERE
DESTROYED BY THE FORCES
OF EVIL! THERE IS ONLY
ONE WAY WE CAN EVER KNOW
FOR CERTAIN, VAMPIRELLA--
BY SENDING *YOU* BACK
TO 1897!

WE VAN HELSEINGS
HAVE LEARNED MANY SECRETS
THROUGH OUR ENDLESS STRUGGLES
AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! **WHITE
WITCHCRAFT**- CAN PIERCE THE BARRIERS
OF TIME AND SPACE, AS WELL. GOOD
LUCK, VAMPIRELLA! WE HAVE GIVEN
YOU NINETEENTH CENTURY CLOTHING
AND MONEY, AS WELL AS AN AMPLE
SUPPLY OF YOUR SERUM! NOW, IF YOU
ARE STILL WILLING, I SHALL SEND
YOU TO LONDON TO APPLY FOR WORK
WITH DR. ABRAHAM VAN HELSEING,
JUST BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR
THIS COUNTRY!

WHAT CHOICE
DO I HAVE?
IT'S MY ONLY
CHANCE TO
LIVE A
NORMAL LIFE!



AND I -
A MERE MORTAL -
CAN ONLY STAND
BY, AS USUAL,
AND WATCH
HELPLESSLY!

* SEE "THE COFFIN OF DRACULA" CREEPY # 48

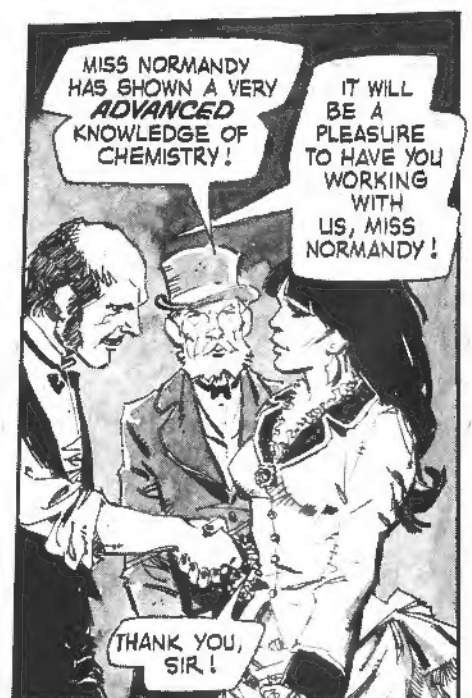
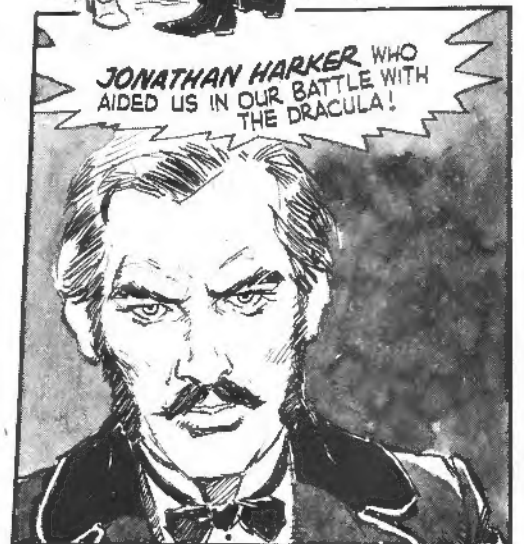
"SOON, I WAS IN 19TH CENTURY LONDON..."

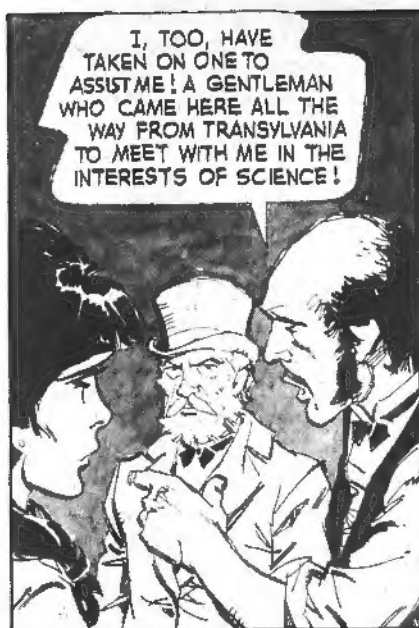


I'VE
DECIDED TO
TAKE YOU ON AS
LAB ASSISTANT,
MISS...
NORMANDY!

THANKS TO A
LITTLE HELP FROM
DRAKULONIAN
HYPNOSIS!







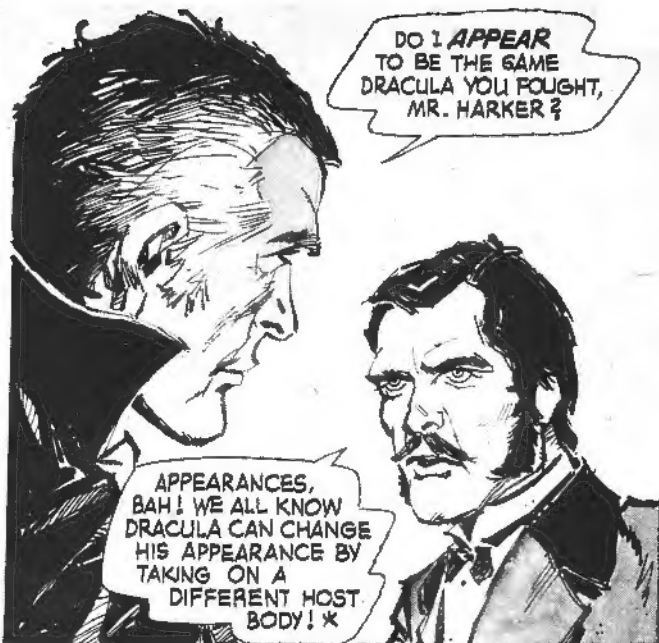
SHADOW OF DRACULA!



YOU **DARE** LURE US HERE, ONLY TO BRING US UNDER THE SPELL OF DRACULA ONCE AGAIN!

JONATHAN, WAIT! PERHAPS THERE IS A REASONABLE EXPLANATION!

MR. HARKER! I ASSURE YOU, THIS IS **NOT** THE DRACULA YOU HAVE KNOWN!



DO I **APPEAR** TO BE THE SAME DRACULA YOU FOUGHT, MR. HARKER?

APPEARANCES, BAH! WE ALL KNOW DRACULA CAN CHANGE HIS APPEARANCE BY TAKING ON A DIFFERENT HOST BODY! *

*SEE "THE COFFIN OF DRACULA" CREEPY # 8 AND 9



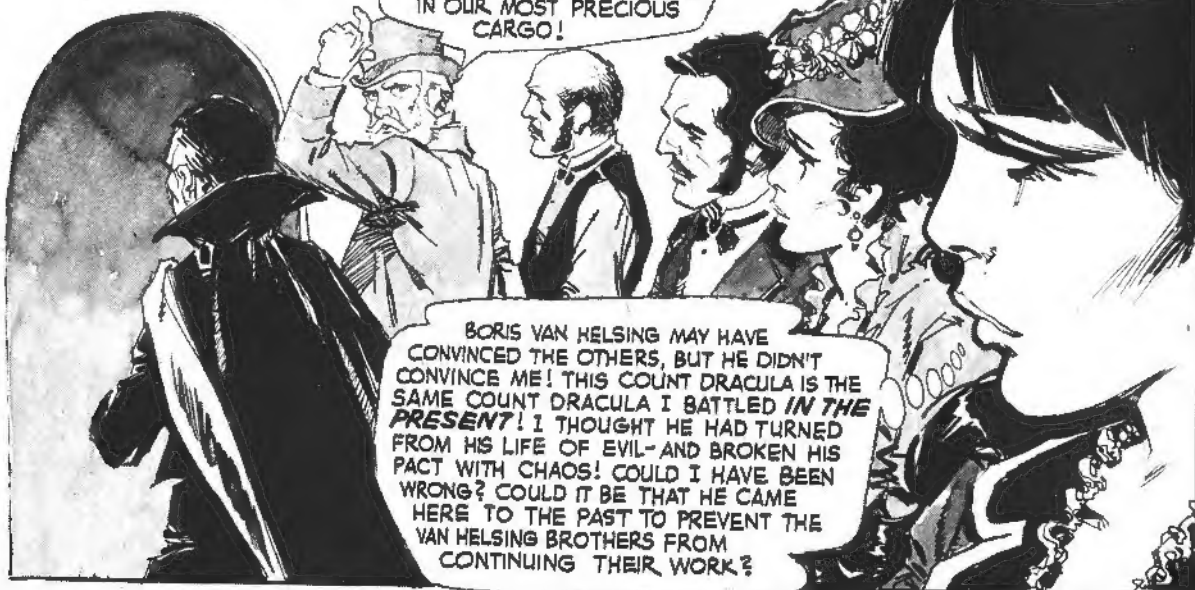
I HAD HOPED WE COULD AVOID SUCH A SCENE AS THIS! **THIS** COUNT DRACULA IS A DESCENDANT OF THE AGE-OLD MONSTER YOU DESTROYED! HE IS MOST DISTRAUGHT OVER THE EVIL CAUSED BY **THAT** DRACULA, AND WISHES TO ATONE FOR IT BY AIDING US IN OUR PROJECT!

LET US NOT PRE-JUDGE HIM, JONATHAN! IS A MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINS OF HIS FAMILY? SUCH REASONING BELONGS IN THE DARK AGES! THIS IS THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, MY GOOD MAN!



NOW THAT THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED, GENTLEMEN, LET US BRING IN OUR MOST PRECIOUS CARGO!

VERY WELL! I APOLOGIZE, COUNT DRACULA... FOR NOW!



BORIS VAN HELSING MAY HAVE CONVINCED THE OTHERS, BUT HE DIDN'T CONVINCE ME! THIS COUNT DRACULA IS THE SAME COUNT DRACULA I BATTLED **IN THE PRESENT**! I THOUGHT HE HAD TURNED FROM HIS LIFE OF EVIL- AND BROKEN HIS PACT WITH CHAOS! COULD I HAVE BEEN WRONG? COULD IT BE THAT HE CAME HERE TO THE PAST TO PREVENT THE VAN HELSING BROTHERS FROM CONTINUING THEIR WORK?



THE FACT THAT YOU KNOW WHO I AM PROVES YOU *LIED* TO BORIS VAN HELSING! YOU *ARE* THE SAME DRACULA, ONLY A CENTURY OLDER-- YOU TRAVELLED HERE FROM *OUR* CENTURY! *WHY?*

WHEN I SAW YOU EARLIER, AS ELLA NORMANDY I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU! I HAVE BROKEN MY PACT WITH THE MAD GOD CHAOS, WHO CAUSED THE EVIL IN ME! I SEEK ONLY TO ATONE FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE NOW!

HOW?
BY RUINING THE VAN HELSING BROTHERS' PROJECT?



NO! NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I WILL EXPLAIN! SOME OF THIS YOU KNOW ALREADY...

"IT BEGAN WHEN THAT STRANGE GODDESS FROM THE STARS, KNOWN ONLY AS THE *CONJURESS*, RETURNED TO ME AFTER THESE MANY CENTURIES..."*

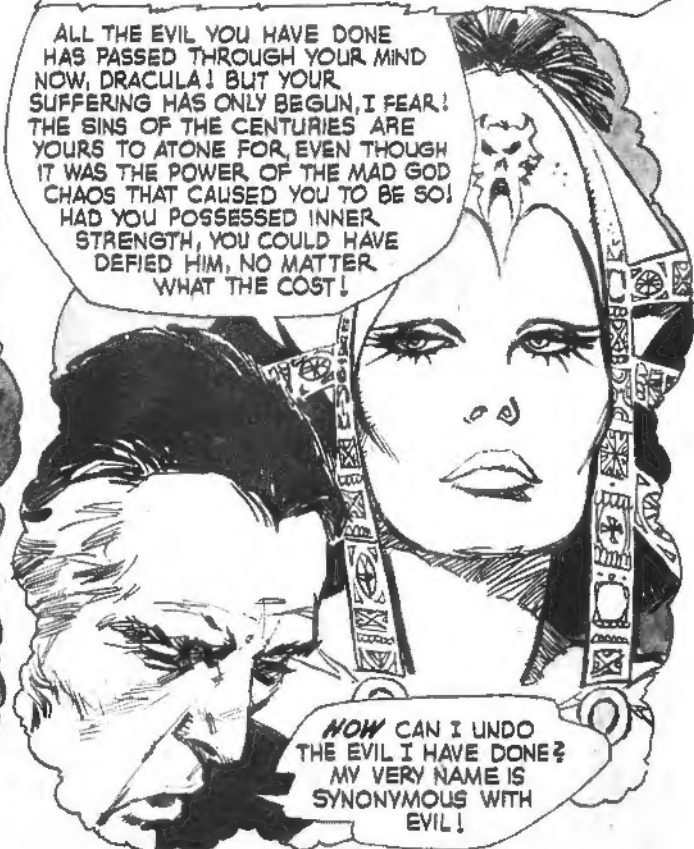
WHEN I KNEW YOU LONG AGO, DRACULA, YOU WERE NOT THUS! YOUR VERY AURA NOW IS *EVIL*!

THE CONJURESS!
YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME!



"MY LOVE FOR HER BROUGHT BACK THE MEMORIES OF THE NOBLE IDEALS I HAD ONCE CHERISHED -- AND FILLED ME WITH HORROR AT WHAT I HAD BECOME! I WISHED TO CHANGE MY DESTINY THEN, SO, WITH MY CONSENT, SHE TOOK ME TO THE *PATH OF ATONEMENT* WHERE..."

ALL THE EVIL YOU HAVE DONE HAS PASSED THROUGH YOUR MIND NOW, DRACULA! BUT YOUR SUFFERING HAS ONLY BEGUN, I FEAR! THE SINS OF THE CENTURIES ARE YOURS TO ATONE FOR, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS THE POWER OF THE MAD GOD CHAOS THAT CAUSED YOU TO BE SO! HAD YOU POSSESSED INNER STRENGTH, YOU COULD HAVE DEFIED HIM, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!



NOW CAN I UNDO THE EVIL I HAVE DONE? MY VERY NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH EVIL!

* SEE "DRACULA STILL LIVES" VAMPIRELLA #18

"THEN, SHE SENT ME HURLING THROUGH TIME,
TO THIS CENTURY..."

THERE ARE
MANY WAYS, DRACULA,
THROUGH WHICH A MAN
MAY ATONE FOR THE EVIL
HE HAS DONE! BUT THOSE
WAYS ARE NOT EASILY
UNDERSTOOD! THIS IS VAN
HELSEING MANSION, IN THE
YEAR 1897! THE MASTER
OF THIS HOUSE IS BORIS
VAN HELSEING, BROTHER OF
ABRAHAM, THE MAN WHO
FIRST DEFEATED YOU IN
ENGLAND! YOU MUST
MEET WITH THIS MAN,
AND GAIN HIS TRUST!
YOU MUST AID HIM
IN HIS
RESEARCH!

I - I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

YOU *WILL*! BUT FOR NOW, KNOW
ONLY THIS! I HAVE TAKEN FROM YOU
YOUR CHAOS GRANTED POWERS- AND
CURSES! YOU ARE NOW AS ANY OTHER
BEING FROM THE PLANET DRACULON,
SUCH AS VAMPIRELLA! YOU CAST A
SHADOW, A REFLECTION, AND YOU
NEED NOT FEAR THE SUN! BUT
YOU ARE STILL A *VAMPIRE*!

THEN
I WILL NEED
BLOOD TO
SURVIVE!

NO, NOT TO
SURVIVE! FOR I WILL
NOT ALLOW YOU TO DIE!
YOUR BLOODLUST
REMAINS, DRACULA,
BUT YOU MUST
CONQUER IT!

CONJURESS,
WAIT! I'LL NEED
YOUR HELP!

SHE PROVIDED
ME WITH CREDENTIALS
AND LETTERS OF
INTRODUCTION TO
BORIS VAN HELSEING! WHEN
I SAW THAT THEY
INTRODUCED ME AS
COUNT DRACULA, I
FEARED I WOULD
RECEIVE *THE STAKE*
RATHER THAN A
WELCOME!
APPARENTLY, THE
MAGIC OF THE
CONJURESS CAUSED
THEM TO TRUST
ME!

ALL RIGHT!
I'LL BELIEVE
YOU!



I TOO CAME TO AID BORIS VAN HELSING IN HIS RESEARCH! CAN IT BE MERE COINCIDENCE THAT WE BOTH CHOSE TO COME TO THIS TIME AND PLACE?

NO, VAMPIRELLA, I THINK NOT! IN THE WORDS OF THE **CONJURESS**, IN THIS VAST AND ENDLESS UNIVERSE, WHERE ALL THINGS HAVE THEIR PLACE AND PURPOSE—NOTHING IS BY CHANCE! PERHAPS YOU WERE SENT HERE... TO HELP ME!



THEN HELP YOU, I SHALL, DRACULA! BUT I THINK IT BEST THAT WE CUT OUR VISIT SHORT-- BEFORE WE ATTRACT SOME UNWANTED ATTENTION!



MADE IT!



FOR AN UNDERPAID LABORATORY ASSISTANT, I SURE LEAD A ROUGH LIFE!

AT LAST, MORNING COMES TO VAN HELSING MANSION. A MORNING UN- NOTICED BY THE WEARY TRAVELLERS SLEEPING WITHIN...



UNNOTICED, THAT IS, BY ALL BUT **ONE!** ONE MAN WHO, FOR CENTURIES, HAS NOT KNOWN THE BEAUTY OF THE DAYLIGHT, AND NOW BASKS ECSTATICALLY IN ITS GLORY...



AND WITH MORNING COMES GRIM WORK THAT MUST BE DONE...

I ALMOST REGRET NOW, THAT I BROUGHT HER BODY HERE! IT SEEMS SO *UNHOLY*-- SHE SUFFERED SO LONG! IF ONLY WE COULD LET HER REST!

IT IS NOT AN EASY TASK, WHAT WE MUST DO! BUT REMEMBER-- WE DO IT FOR ALL MANKIND! IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR CURE-- THE PLAGUE OF VAMPIRISM WILL BE ENDED FOREVER!

LUCY WESTENRA MUST LIVE AGAIN!

LUCY!
OH, LUCY!
(SOB)

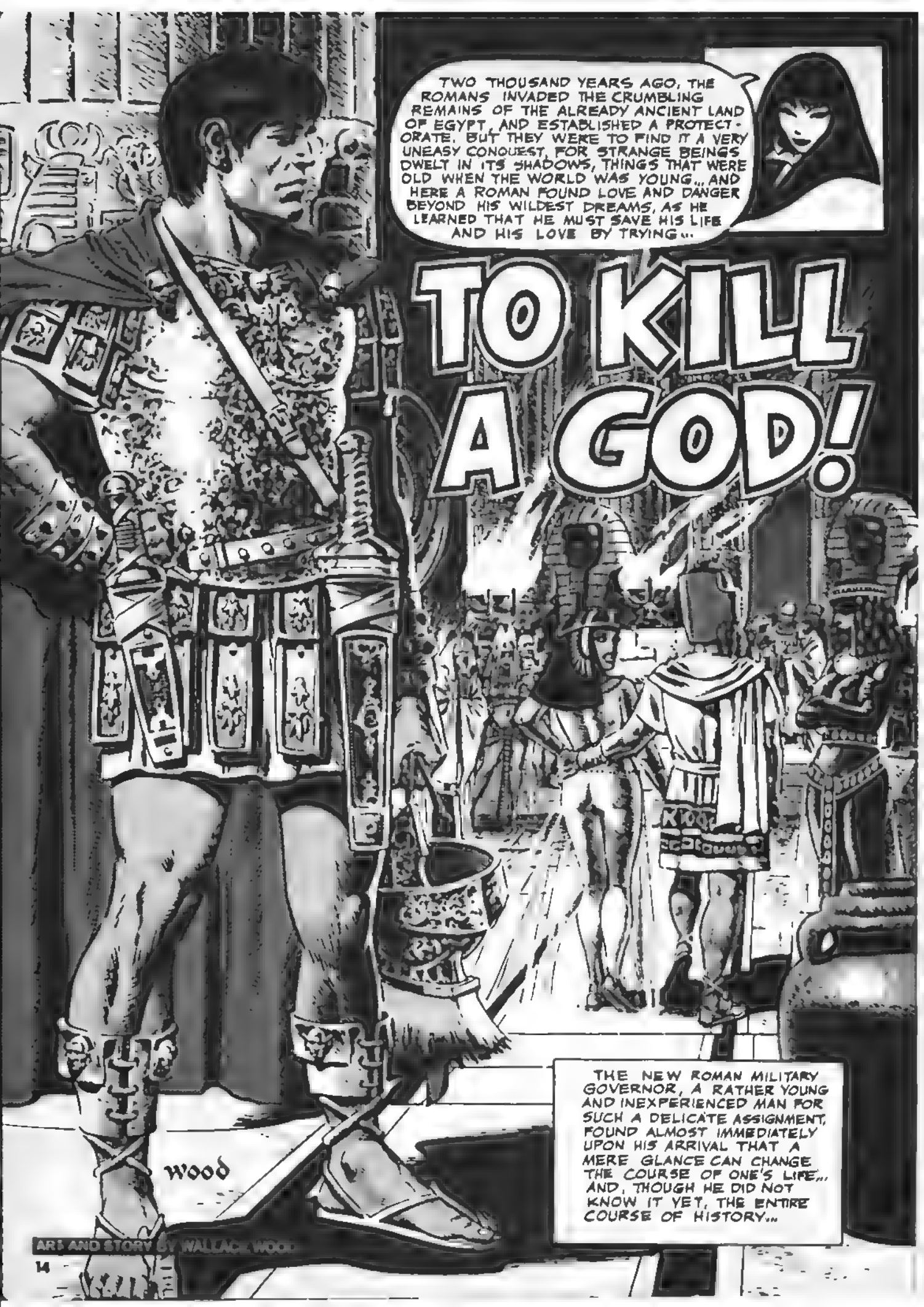
GENTLEMEN! I CANNOT ALLOW MINA TO WITNESS THIS! SHE AND LUCY WERE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS BEFORE-- BEFORE--

BEFORE THE MONSTER, *DRACULA* CAUGHT HER IN HIS WEB AND MADE HER WHAT *HE* WAS! FORGIVE OUR THOUGHTLESSNESS, JONATHAN! ESCORT MINA TO HER ROOM!

WHEN JONATHAN HAS TAKEN MINA AWAY...

CREEAAAK

NEXT ISSUE: "WHEN WAKES THE DEAD"



TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THE ROMANS INVADDED THE CRUMBLING REMAINS OF THE ALREADY ANCIENT LAND OF EGYPT, AND ESTABLISHED A PROTECTORATE. BUT THEY WERE TO FIND IT A VERY UNEASY CONQUEST, FOR STRANGE BEINGS DWELT IN ITS SHADOWS, THINGS THAT WERE OLD WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG... AND HERE A ROMAN FOUND LOVE AND DANGER BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS, AS HE LEARNED THAT HE MUST SAVE HIS LIFE AND HIS LOVE BY TRYING...

TO KILL A GOD!

THE NEW ROMAN MILITARY GOVERNOR, A RATHER YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED MAN FOR SUCH A DELICATE ASSIGNMENT, FOUND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS ARRIVAL THAT A MERE GLANCE CAN CHANGE THE COURSE OF ONE'S LIFE... AND, THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW IT YET, THE ENTIRE COURSE OF HISTORY...

WOOD

AS ONE IN A TRANCE,
THE ROMAN GOVERNOR
GAZED AFTER THE DE-
PARTED PRINCESS...
THEN, SUDDENLY—



HIS SHORT SWORD FLICKERED IN AND OUT IN THE
GLOOM, AND ONE OF THE GHASTLY ATTACKERS
FELL, HIS LIFE BLOOD SPURTING...



OH!
THANK THE
GODS-- IT IS
YOU,
ROMAN!

AT 1200--
THEY CAN BE
KILLED! FROM
THEIR DEATHLY
APPEARANCE,
I WAS NOT
SURE THEY
WERE
MORTAL!



ROMAN! LOOK OUT
BEHIND YOU!

LATER, AFTER HE HAD SEEN
HER SAFELY HOME...

YOU ARE THE
NEW GOVERNOR,
ARE YOU NOT?
HOW ARE
YOU
CALLED?

MARCUS... AND I
AM NOT YOUR
GOVERNOR, BUT
YOUR SLAVE!



HOW GALLANT YOU ARE... AND
HOW UNUSUAL-- A POLITICIAN
WHO IS ALSO A LOVER AND
A FIGHTING MAN...

A LOVE BOTH TENDER AND PASSIONATE GREW,
AND YET SHE WAS OFTEN PENSIVE... AND
THEN ONE NIGHT, AS HE TRIED TO EXPRESS
HIS FEELING IN WORDS...

...I MUST
TELL
YOU...

DON'T! PLEASE,
I BEG OF YOU! LET
US JUST LIVE, AND
ENJOY, AND NOT LOOK
AHEAD OR BACK... OR
SPEAK OF
LOVE...

IS IT BECAUSE YOU ARE A PRINCESS?
A ROMAN CITIZEN IS THE EQUAL OF THE
ROYALTY OF ANY WEAK AND DECADENT
PROTECTORATE SUCH AS YOUR EGYPT!

STOP! IT ISN'T THAT!
I MUST NOT LOVE YOU...
...NOR ANYONE...



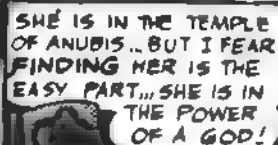
BUT WHY...?

AND THEN, ONE DAY...

THE PRINCESS HAS DISAPPEARED!
ANKHNON! TITUS! BEGIN A
SEARCH! FIND HER!



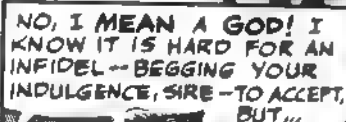
WE
ALREADY
HAVE,
SIR!



SHE IS IN THE TEMPLE OF ANUBIS... BUT I FEAR FINDING HER IS THE EASY PART... SHE IS IN THE POWER OF A GOD!

A GOD?

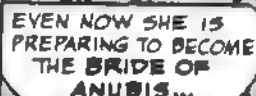
A PRIEST, YOU MEAN!



NO, I MEAN A GOD! I KNOW IT IS HARD FOR AN INFIDEL--BEGGING YOUR INDULGENCE, SIRE--TO ACCEPT, BUT...

NOT HARD, ANKHON... IMPOSSIBLE!

LOOK! THERE SHE IS! BUT WHAT...



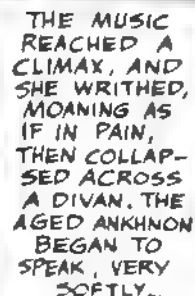
EVEN NOW SHE IS PREPARING TO BECOME THE BRIDE OF ANUBIS...

NO DOUBT, SIRE

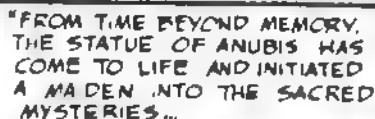
BUT NOW IT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

THAT DRINK.. SHE IS BEING DRUGGED!

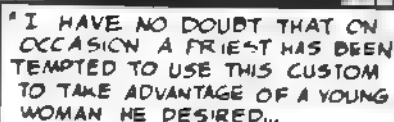
SUDDENLY, UNSEEN PIPES AND STRINGS BEGAN AN EERIE RHYTHM, AND SHE BEGAN TO SWAY, TO A MELODY TERRIBLY ALIEN... BOTH CHILLING AND SENSUAL...



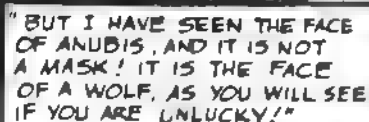
THE MUSIC REACHED A CLIMAX, AND SHE WRITHED, MOANING AS IF IN PAIN, THEN COLLAPSED ACROSS A DIVAN. THE AGED ANKHON BEGAN TO SPEAK, VERY SOFTLY...



"FROM TIME BEYOND MEMORY, THE STATUE OF ANUBIS HAS COME TO LIFE AND INITIATED A MAIDEN INTO THE SACRED MYSTERIES..."



"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT ON OCCASION A PRIEST HAS BEEN TEMPTED TO USE THIS CUSTOM TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A YOUNG WOMAN HE DESIRED..."



"BUT I HAVE SEEN THE FACE OF ANUBIS, AND IT IS NOT A MASK! IT IS THE FACE OF A WOLF, AS YOU WILL SEE IF YOU ARE UNLUCKY!"

IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, MARCUS FELT A SHIVER OF SUPERSTITIOUS DREAD AS THE IDOL STOOD UP...
... BUT ALL WAS BLOTTED OUT BY A RED RAGE AS THE GOD MOVED TOWARD THE PRINCESS...

NOW I WILL SEE IF THIS 'GOD' BLEEDS!

NO! I BEG OF YOU! DO NOT TRY TO KILL A GOD...

THERE WAS NO STOPPING THE BERSERK ROMAN...

EEEE!
OH, NO!

WELL? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?

OH, MARCUS! YOU HAVE JUST COMMITTED SUICIDE!

WHY? THIS IS BUT A MAN... A PRIEST IN A MASK!

THAT MAY BE, BUT THERE IS A REAL ANUBIS...

...SEE?

LATER, AS MARCUS SLEPT...

FAREWELL, MY LOVE... I MUST GO TO MY DESTINY... TO ANUBIS...

...GIVE MYSELF TO HIM...

PERHAPS THEN HE WILL NOT HARM YOU...

THERE SHE IS! SIEZE HER!

I BEG OF YOU TAKE ME...

NO, I AM SORRY, BUT NO ONE MAY ATTACK A GOD AND LIVE!

SILENCE HER!

MARCUS WAS BRIEFLY DELAYED BY ANUBIS' HIDEOUS SERVANTS...

BUT LET HIM BE!

YOU OTHERS... GO BRING ME THE MAN!

MARCUS! LOOK OUT!

ANUBIS COMES!

THUD!

PRINCESS! WHERE ARE YOU?

THEN A SHADOW ACROSS THE MOON MADE HIM LOOK UP...

BY THE GODS! WHAT IS THAT?

...AND WHERE ARE THEY TAKING HER?

PERHAPS YOU WILL BELIEVE NOW, ROMAN! IT IS ALL TRUE... THAT IS A SPHYNX, ANUBIS IS A GOD... AND THEY ARE TAKING HER ACROSS THE RIVER STYX TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD!

WILL YOU DARE GO AFTER HER? TO THE DOMAIN OF CHARON?

YES! I WOULD GO TO HELL ITSELF FOR HER! TITUS? CAIUS? WHO WILL GO WITH ME?

WHERE YOU LEAD, WE FOLLOW, SIR!

VERY WELL, YOU RASH YOUNG FOOL! I CANNOT STOP YOU, BUT I CAN GIVE YOU THIS... A BOW AND AN ARROW MADE OF THE MAGIC METAL...

THANK YOU... BUT WHY...?

I HAVE WAITED LONG FOR YOUR KIND OF FOOL! THE FACT I BELIEVE IN GODS SUCH AS ANUBIS DOESN'T MEAN I APPROVE OF THEM!

SHOOT FROM A DISTANCE, AND DO NOT MISS! GOOD LUCK... AND GOOD HUNTING!

AND SOON...

I CAN SEE CLIFFS
AHEAD... STRANGE,
WHITE CLIFFS!
MAKE READY
TO GO
ASHORE!

"AND
PRAY
ANKHNON'S
SILVER
ARROW IS
INDEED
MAGIC!"

OH, MARCUS... MARCUS...
WHY DID YOU COME? ARE
YOU SO EAGER TO DIE?
I TRIED TO SPARE YOU
THIS... FOR, NO MATTER
HOW GOOD, OR STRONG,
OR WISE, NO MAN CAN
DO WHAT YOU ARE
ATTEMPTING!

LOOK, SIR!
THERE SHE
IS! STAKED
OUT LIKE BAIT
IN A TRAP! SHALL
WE LAND ELSE-
WHERE, OR...?

SOON DETAILS ON THE
SHORE WERE VISIBLE...
AND THEY SAW THAT THE
CLIFFS WERE COMPOSED
OF HUMAN BONES... THE
COUNTLESS BONES OF
ALL THE DEAD OF FIFTY
CENTURIES OF AN ANCIENT
RACE...

NO! WE GO
ASHORE RIGHT
HERE! LET US SEE
IF OUR GOOD ROMAN
STEEL CAN BREAK
THE TEETH OF
THIS TRAP!

THE ROMANS WERE AFRAID,
BUT THEIR DISCIPLINE HELD...
AT A SIGNAL FROM MARCUS,
THEY PLUNGED INTO THE
SURF, AND, FORMING THEIR
IMPENETRABLE PHALANX,
MARCHED ASHORE...

IMMEDIATELY, THEY WERE ATTACKED, BUT BY CREATURES OF FLESH AND BLOOD...

ADVANCE!

HOLD
FAST YOUR
SHIELD
WALL!

YOU MEN
CARRY ON
WITH THE
KILLING...

I WILL GO TO THE
PRINCESS, AND
SEE IF ANUBIS
MAKES HIS
APPEARANCE...

OH,
MARCUS!
YOU SHOULD
NOT HAVE TRIED.
BUT LET US SEE
IF WE CAN ESCAPE
BEFORE ANUBIS-

IT'S TOO LATE,
MY PRINCESS!
LOOK BEHIND
YOU!

FLINGING
THE GIRL
ASIDE, THE
WOLF GOD
ATTACKED...

...AND MARCUS
WAS SHAKEN
ENOUGH TO
FORGET THE
ARROW AND
USE HIS
SHORT
SWORD...



AGAIN HE
DESTROYED
THE MASK
OF ANUBIS
BUT THIS
TIME...

NO! IT
CANNOT
BE!



ANKHNON
WAS
RIGHT!

HIS BLADE FLASHED AS ANUBIS
LEAPED AT HIS THROAT...

THEN, WITH THE HELPLESS FEEL-
ING OF ONE TRAPPED IN A NIGHT-
MARE, HE FELT RAZOR-SHARP
FANGS RIPPING AT HIS JUGULAR...
A WAVE OF DIZZINESS SWEEPED
OVER HIM, THEN EVERYTHING GREW
DARK...

...AND HE OPENED HIS
EYES A MOMENT LATER
TO SEE...



...RAN HIM
THROUGH...
AND HE'S
STILL
COMING!



WEAK AND FAINT, MARCUS REMEMBERED THE ARROW...

...AS THE SHARP TEETH OF ANUBIS FOUND THE GIRL'S THROAT...

... BUT A SECOND LATER THE ROMAN LET FLY THE SILVER SHAFT OF THE WISE ANKHNON, STRIKING THE GOD-BEAST SQUARELY IN THE HEART!



AS HE DIED, ANUBIS BEGAN TO CHANGE.



... FROM WOLF'S HEAD TO AN INCREDIBLY OLD MAN... THEN TO A GRINNING SKULL, WHICH CRUMBLLED AND DISSOLVED INTO A CLOUD OF DUST...

NOW HE IS DEAD!



AT LAST!



ABOARD THE SHIP, IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO REMOVE HER CHAINS...

CONFIDENTLY, THEY SET SAIL FOR THE LAND OF THE LIVING... BUT THAT NIGHT, SOMETHING HAPPENED, AND THEY KNEW THAT THEY COULD NOT RETURN TO A NORMAL LIFE...



THE NEXT MORNING...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE BITE OF ANUBIS... NOW WE ARE AS HE WAS...

OH, MARCUS! WHAT ARE WE? GODS... OR MONSTERS?



THEY SWERVED TO THE EAST AND PASSED BETWEEN ROME AND GREECE, LANDING IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF THE CONTINENT...



... AND THAT IS THE STORY OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO MARCUS ANTONIUS AND CLEOPATRA! THEY SETTLED IN THE BALKANS, AND ARE STILL ALIVE (OR DEAD, OR LIVING DEAD, DEPENDING ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW) IN A REGION THAT HAS SINCE COME TO BE CALLED TRANSYLVANIA!





THIS IS ONE WAY TO COOL IT, GANG! UP HERE...
IN BACKWOODS CANADA...WHERE PEOPLE STILL FEAR
THE **LOUPE GAROU**...AND WHERE A GUN MAY
BE LOADED WITH...

TWO SILVER BULLETS!

MARIE DID NOT SEE THE LARGE,
GRAY TIMBER WOLF BEFORE IT
STRUCK...NOR DID SHE HEAR IT!
IT JUST SEEMED TO APPEAR IN A
FURIOUS BLUR OF HAIR AND CRIM-
SON EYES AND GLEAMING FANGS!
BY THEN, IT WAS TOO LATE...

NO! FATHER!
HELP ME!



SHE TRIED TO STRUGGLE...IT WAS USELESS!
ALREADY THE WEIGHT OF THE SNARLING
BRUTE HAD FORCED HER TO THE SNOW...

MARIA! MARIA!



PLEASE,
FATHER!

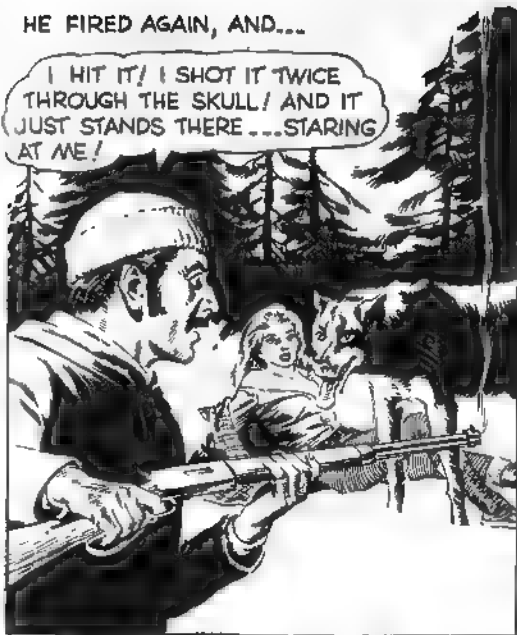
I'M CLOSE ENOUGH TO
GET AN ACCURATE SHOT!
THERE! **DEAD CENTER!**

KACHYA!



HE FIRED AGAIN, AND...

I HIT IT! I SHOT IT TWICE THROUGH THE SKULL! AND IT JUST STANDS THERE...STARING AT ME!



IT'S RUNNING OFF! BUT THOSE EYES...THOSE RED EYES! LOOKED ALMOST HUMAN! BUT...MARIA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I...I THINK SO, FATHER!



THIS BLOOD SAYS YOU'RE NOT! THAT FILTHY BEAST! IT HURT YOU!

IT...DOESN'T HURT MUCH! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



HOME, MARIA! YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE! AND I CAN DRESS THOSE WOUNDS!



INSIDE THE WELCOMED CABIN, HE FELT THE BARREL OF THE STILL WARM RIFLE...INSPECTED IT...



I KNOW I HIT THAT BEAST! THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND, MARIA! AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THE GUN!

AND I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET THE WAY THAT WOLF JUST STARED AT ME...WHEN IT COULD HAVE ATTACKED!

I HAD THE SAME FEELING! WHEN IT ATTACKED ME...



...ITS EYES...EVEN BURNING LIKE THEY WERE...WERE STRANGELY HUMAN!



OF COURSE! I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED! EVEN THE MOON SPEAKS THE TRUTH!

FATHER! WHAT...?

THE FULL MOON! THE WEREWOLF MOON! MY PREY IS... **LOUP-GAROU!** AND IT CANNOT BE KILLED BY MY BULLETS! CURSE IT! BUT IN THE MORNING, WHEN IT IS SAFE, WE SHALL SEE!

DAWN HAD BARELY ABSORBED THE NIGHT WHEN...

THIS MONSTER WILL NOT HAVE ANOTHER NIGHT OF HUNTING! IT HAS HOWLED AT ITS LAST MOON!

AND AS HE LEFT, MARIA DREAMED STRANGE YET PLEASING DREAMS....

THE PACK...
MY PACK...

FOLLOW ME,
MY BROTHERS! RUN
WITH THE MOONBEAMS!

...TO HIM! TO HIM!
WE MUST HURRY!

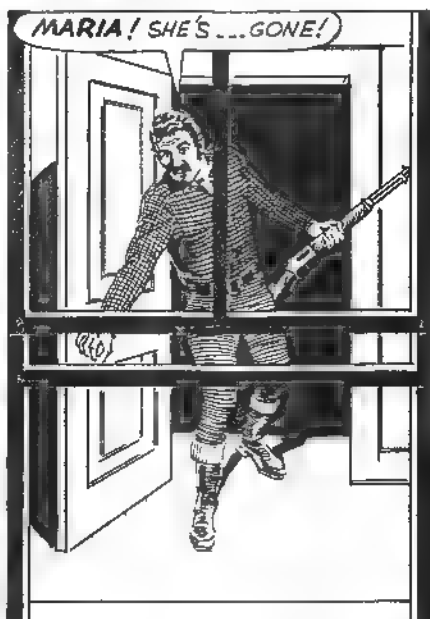
I HAVE COME,
MY LOVE!
I AM YOURS!



ALREADY, MARIA'S FATHER HAD REACHED HIS DESTI-
NATION...A STRANGE PLACE TO ENTER ARMED WITH
SUCH AN IMPLEMENT OF DEATH...



THE DAYLIGHT LINGERED FOR SEEMINGLY AN ETERNITY...WHILE HIS HUMAN HATRED MOUNTED. AGAIN AND AGAIN HE CHECKED HIS RIFLE FOR THE POTENT CARTRIDGES IN FUTILE ATTEMPTS TO BREAK THE MONOTONY...



TRACKING THE BEAST'S PAW PRINTS WAS NO DIFFICULT MATTER...BUT AS HE REACHED THE ORIGIN OF THOSE SOUL-TURNING HOWLS...



WELL, I HAVE TWO SILVER BULLETS! ONE FOR EACH OF THEM!



I MUST GET A GOOD SIGHT! HMM...I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE WAITING FOR! WHY DON'T THEY ATTACK?



THOSE EYES! SO... HUMAN!



THEN HE AIMED AT THE WHITE WOLF...AND AS HIS FINGER MOVED, A SUDDEN RECOGNITION IN THE CREATURE'S EYES SCREAMED FOR HIM TO STOP...



MARIA! NO, WHAT HAVE I DONE!?



THE WHITE WOLF MADE A FINAL YELP OF PAIN...THEN FELL A FAMILIAR FORM IN THE EVENING SNOW.

MARIA!



WELL, THAT FRENCH-CANADIAN WOULD STILL HAVE HIS DAUGHTER IF HE COULDA MANAGED TO KEEP HIS TRAP SHUT! AND HE STILL OWES THE GOOD PADRE' FOR THOSE SILVER BULLETS! THEY DON'T COME CHEAP! I KNOW AN INDIAN WHO'LL TELL YOU THAT!



PROLOGUE...



OH, I'M NOT
GOOD ENOUGH..
RICH ENOUGH
FOR YOU NOW,
EH?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I **EVER** SAW IN YOU
FRANK! YOU'RE A
COMPLETE **BOOR!**
NOW PLEASE LEAVE US
ALONE, AND DON'T
BOTHER TO CALL ON
ME AGAIN!

... ALL RIGHT,
ANNE. IF THAT'S
THE WAY YOU
WANT IT

... FRANK WILLIAMS HAD
NEVER ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
BEFORE. HOWEVER, REJECTION
FREQUENTLY GIVES BIRTH TO DRASTIC
DECISION, SUICIDE UNFORTUNATELY
FALLING IN THAT CATEGORY.
WITNESS HERE FRANK WILLIAMS'
EXPERIENCES IN HIS ATTEMPTS
TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE, ATTEMPTS
WHICH CULMINATE WITH THE
INTERVENTION OF AN AGENT
WHICH MIGHT BE LABELLED...

FATE'S COLD FINGER!

" MUST NOT SEE
EACH OTHER AGAIN"
DROPPED ME COLD
'CAUSE I'M A POOR
SOD-BUSTER. OH, ANNE,
WHY COULDN'T YOU SHARE
YOUR LIFE WITH ME
HERE ON THIS FARM
LIKE WE PLANNED?

KEN
BARR

OH GEORGE,
YOUR SPORTS CAR
IS SUCH A **GAS!**
I FEEL JUST LIKE
I'M FLYING.

IF YOU THINK THIS
IS SOMETHING, JUST WAIT
TILL I GET A CHANCE TO OPEN
HER UP ALL THE WAY!
THIS IS NO **HORSE AND CART**
LIKE WILLIAMS TOOK YOU
OUT IN, BABY!

I'LL BET
SHE'S WITH
THAT CITY-
SLICKER
TOMKINS
RIGHT NOW!
HIM WITH HIS
FANCY CLOTHES
AND SPORTS
CAR!
HOW CAN I
HOPE TO
COMPETE
WITH **HIM**?

NOTHING LEFT NOW
WITH ANNE GONE...
WONDER WHAT THIS WILL
FEEL LIKE...

WHAT THE!.. ROPE
BROKE! WHAT A LAUGH!
I'M THE ALL-TIME LOSER...
CAN'T EVEN KILL MYSELF!
HOW YOU'D LAUGH, ANNE
IF YOU COULD SEE
ME NOW!

SNAP

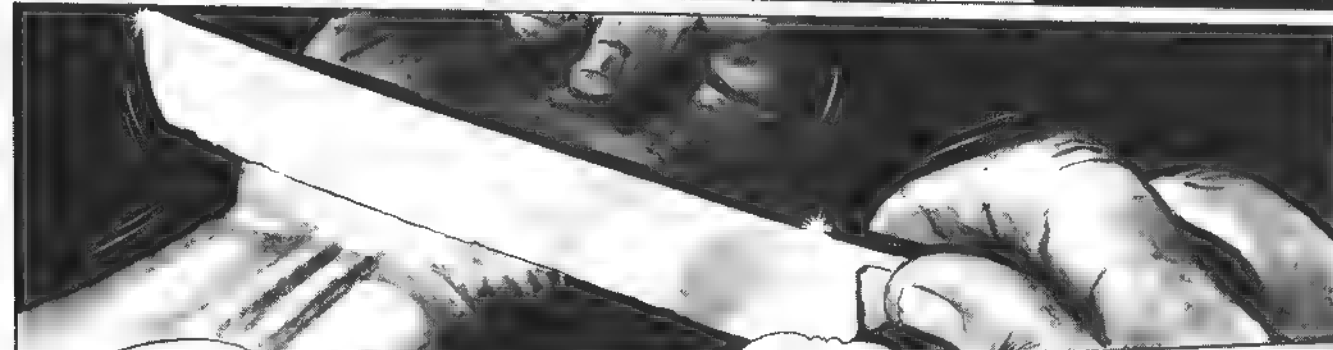
Y'KNOW,
BABY, I
DON'T SEE
HOW YOU
COULD EVEN
GET **CLOSE**
TO THAT
HAY-SEED
FARMER
WITHOUT
LAUGHING
AT HIM!



'TRY, TRY AGAIN'
THEY SAY. WELL,
AT LEAST MY
RAZOR WON'T BE
ABLE TO BREAK!



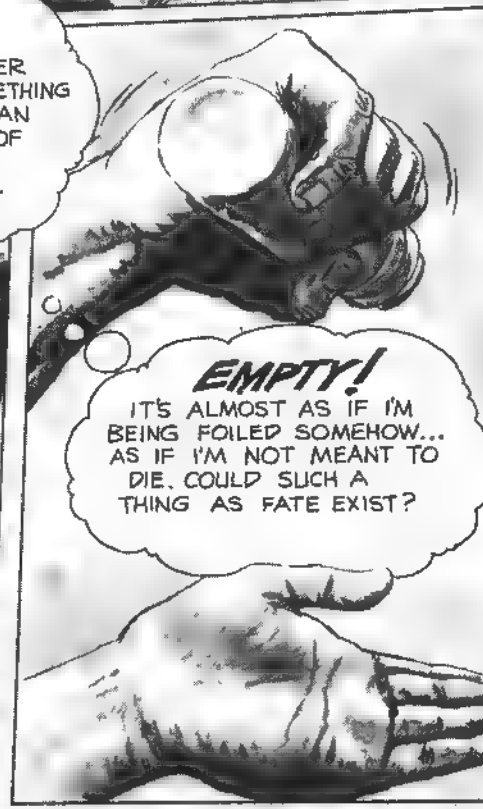
...WITH TREMBLING HANDS WHICH BELIE THE OUTCOME OF HIS
SECOND ATTEMPT TO **CUT** SHORT HIS OWN LIFE, FRANK
WILLIAMS REACHES FOR HIS STRAIGHT RAZOR...



IT'S NO
USE! I JUST
CAN'T DO
IT!



GOTTA DO
IT AN EASIER
WAY... SOMETHING
PAINLESS... AN
OVERDOSE OF
SLEEPING
PILLS...



EMPTY!

IT'S ALMOST AS IF I'M
BEING FOILED SOMEHOW...
AS IF I'M NOT MEANT TO
DIE. COULD SUCH A
THING AS FATE EXIST?

SELF-PITY AND
SELF TORTMENT
HOVER OVER FRANK
WILLIAMS'S SHOULDER
AS HE PONDERES
INTANGIBLE FATE AND
THE GIRL WHO HAS
NOW ALSO BECOME
INTANGIBLE TO HIM...

FATE! THAT'S A
LAUGH! ADMIT IT,
WILLIAMS, YOU'RE JUST
A LOSER... CAN'T EVEN
TAKE **YOUR OWN LIFE!**
I WONDER WHAT
ANNE'S DOING
NOW...

WELL, BABY, I'LL BET THAT
HICK WILLIAMS NEVER TOOK YOU
TO A PLACE LIKE THIS BEFORE
HA! HA!

I NEVER
NOTICED BEFORE
HOW **GLOATING**
GEORGE IS, I
WONDER... COULD
I BE WRONG?

GOOD TABLES ARE **ALWAYS**
AVAILABLE IF ONE IS ABLE TO
ADEQUATELY GREASE THE **MAITRE D'S**
PALM WITH A FEW GREEN BILLS...

YA SEE BABY,
MONEY **TALKS!** YA
WANT SOMETHIN', YA
GOTTA PAY FOR IT,
AND I CAN PAY FOR
ANYTHING I WANT.
NOTHING MATTERS
BESIDES COLD
HARD CASH!

I'M BEGINNING
TO WONDER...
FRANK NEVER
COULD TAKE ME
TO PLACES LIKE THIS,
BUT, AT LEAST HE
CARED FOR THINGS
OTHER THAN MONEY.
THINGS LIKE
EMOTIONS, AND...
ME...

YES, ANNE, FRANK CARES
ABOUT YOU... ENOUGH TO
GIVE HIS **LIFE** FOR YOU...
IF ONLY HE COULD...

GAS & E

Dear Mr Williams.

Due to six months of
we regret that we must
terminate your gas
supply

CAN'T EVEN
GAS MYSELF
TO SLEEP...

FARMER
WILLIAMS
HAS PROBABLY
NEVER EVEN
SEEN FOOD
LIKE **THIS**,
EH, DOLL?



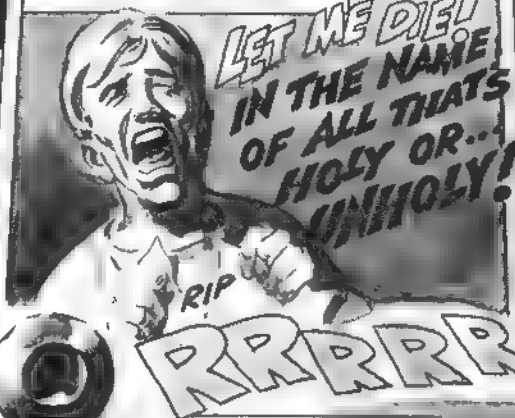
SEA FO
SHUT UP!
YOU POMPUS
SELF-CENTERED
CHILD!

WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

YOU HEARD ME!
THERE ARE MORE THINGS
TO LIFE THAN MONEY!
FRANK WILLIAMS REALIZED
THAT AND I **SHOULD**
HAVE LONG AGO.
GOOD - **BYE!**



BUT THE TORMENT OF LOST LOVE WREAKS PITIABLE RESULTS FROM THE LONELY...



RRRRRRRIIINNNGG

THE RINGING OF FRANK WILLIAMS PHONE INVOKES THE INSTINCTIVE RESPONSE TO ANSWER IT. NUMB DEPRESSION IS WASHED AWAY AND ELATION LIGHTS HIS FACE AT THE SOUND OF HIS BELOVED ANNE'S VOICE...



EXPECTATION SPURS HIS FEET AS A COMPLETELY CHANGED FRANK WILLIAMS DASHES FROM HIS HOUSE...



KRACK



THUK

GHAEEEEAA

... BUT PERHAPS FRANK'S REQUEST IS ANSWERED... OR PERHAPS A STRANGE AND TWISTED FATE DOES EXIST, REARING IT'S MYSTERIOUS HEAD, OFTEN ONLY TO PERPETRATE THE MOST GROSSLY SUPREME IRONIES...



Sorry you can't enter-but why don't you wait anyway-the ones standing will be out any minute...!

SHE'S THE THIRTEENTH ONE-- GUTTED LIKE A FISH AND LEFT...FOR THE RATS. AND WE HAVEN'T GOT A SINGLE CLUE AS TO WHO IS BEHIND IT ALL, OR WHY.



POLICE

MORGUE

"THE YEAR IS 1888. THE PLACE, A DARK, FORBIDDING POLICE MORGUE SOMEWHERE IN LONDON. FOR OVER A MONTH, AN ELUSIVE, **FIENDISH** MURDERER HAS BEEN LEADING A REIGN OF TERROR RIGHT UNDER THE VERY NOSES OF INSPECTOR ALFRED MARSH AND HIS ASSISTANT, JOHN BRENNER. THE TIME HAS COME TO FIND THIS MYSTERIOUS KILLER AND DESTROY HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL. INSPECTOR MARSH AND JOHN BRENNER HAVE VOWED TO CAPTURE HIM BEFORE....

JACK THE RIPPER STRIKES AGAIN

BUT THERE MUST BE A PATTERN TO THE KILLINGS!

ONLY THAT HE ALWAYS MURDERS WOMEN. TEARS THEM TO SHREDS WITH A KNIFE.



POLICE

MORGUE

THE NEWSPAPERS CALL HIM **JACK THE RIPPER!**

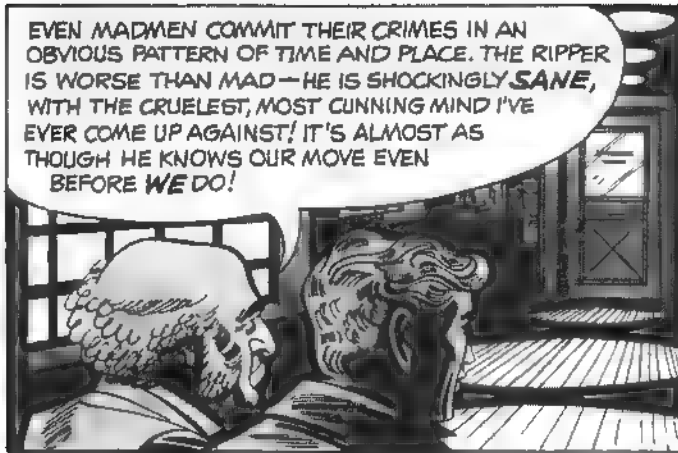


KEEP

THEN WE'RE DEALING WITH A **MADMAN!**

NO. HE'D LIKE US TO **THINK** THAT!





EVEN MADMEN COMMIT THEIR CRIMES IN AN OBVIOUS PATTERN OF TIME AND PLACE. THE RIPPER IS WORSE THAN MAD—HE IS SHOCKINGLY **SANE**, WITH THE CRUELEST, MOST CUNNING MIND I'VE EVER COME UP AGAINST! IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH HE KNOWS OUR MOVE EVEN BEFORE **WE DO!**

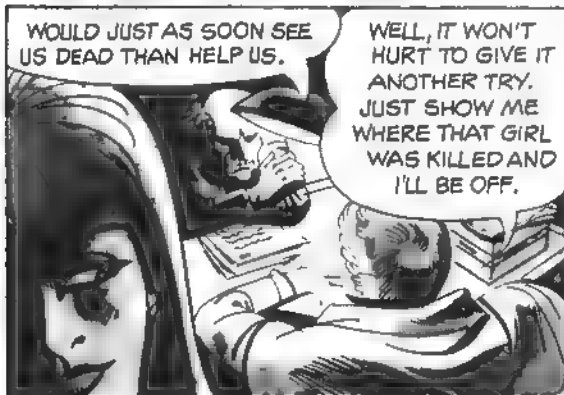


AND YOU CAN'T FIND ANY CLUES?

NONE!



THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA OF THE MURDERS—THIEVES AND GUTTER SCUM, ALL OF THEM...



WOULD JUST AS SOON SEE US DEAD THAN HELP US.

WELL, IT WON'T HURT TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY. JUST SHOW ME WHERE THAT GIRL WAS KILLED AND I'LL BE OFF.



HERE—ON WALMSLEY LANE. BUT TAKE CARE, JOHN. THEY'RE A ROUGH BUNCH OVER THERE. AND IT'S A CHILL NIGHT...LET MISS SIMPSON GET SOME TEA IN YOU BEFORE GOING OUT!

I'VE GOT A POT ON NOW.



"WALMSLEY LANE—HAVEN FOR THIEVES AND CUT-THROATS. JOHN BRENNER SENSES THE EVIL AND SMOLDERING HATRED WHICH SEEMS TO HANG IN THE AIR AS HE DRIVES HIS CARRIAGE ALONG THE FILTHY STREET. ROUNDING A CORNER, HE SUDDENLY COMES UPON AN ANGRY MOB..."



WHY IS EVERYONE GATHERED THERE?

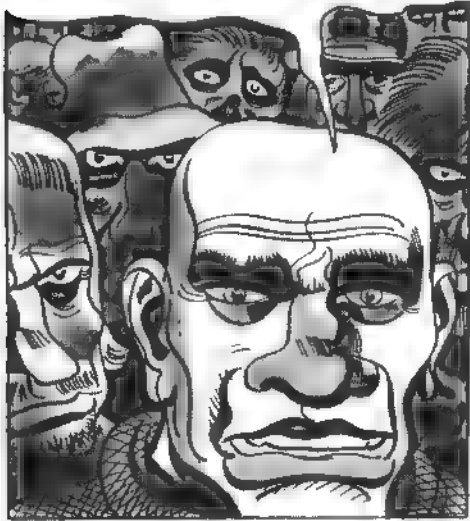
THE RIPPER KILLED ANOTHER GIRL LAST NIGHT. THE POLICE WERE JUST HERE FOR HER. WE DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY'RE HANDLING THINGS.



"THEN, BEFORE JOHN KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING, THE SNARLING MOB HAS HIM SURROUNDED..."

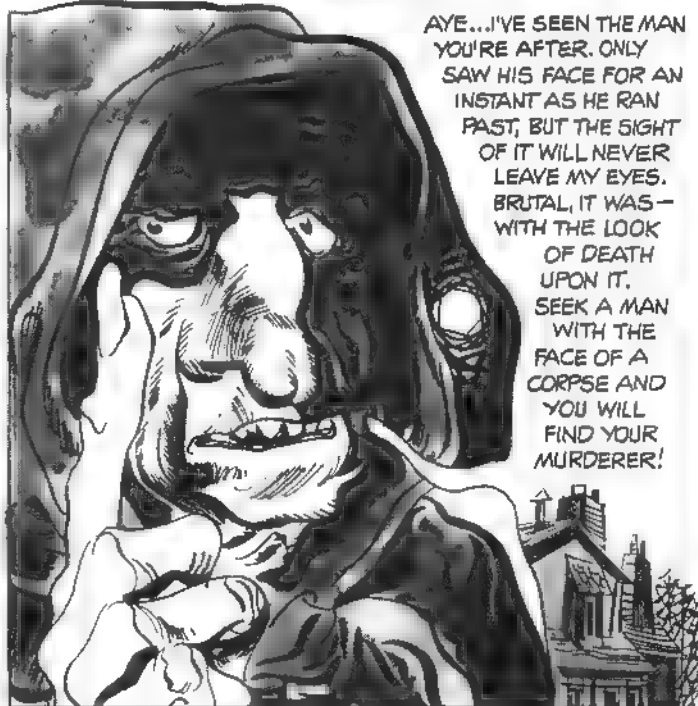


THAT'S ENOUGH!! WE'LL HELP THIS MAN
NO MORE! LET'S BE OFF!!



YOU'LL LEARN NOTHING
MORE HERE, SIR. YOU SEE,
THE RIPPER COULD BE A
BROTHER OR A FATHER, SO
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND
WHY THEY WON'T TALK WITH
YOU. THEY AREN'T AFRAID
OF THE RIPPER. THEY'RE
AFRAID OF
THEMSELVES.

THEN
PERHAPS
YOU CAN
HELP ME.



AYE...I'VE SEEN THE MAN
YOU'RE AFTER. ONLY
SAW HIS FACE FOR AN
INSTANT AS HE RAN
PAST, BUT THE SIGHT
OF IT WILL NEVER
LEAVE MY EYES.
BRUTAL, IT WAS—
WITH THE LOOK
OF DEATH
UPON IT. SEEK A MAN
WITH THE
FACE OF A
CORPSE AND
YOU WILL
FIND YOUR
MURDERER!

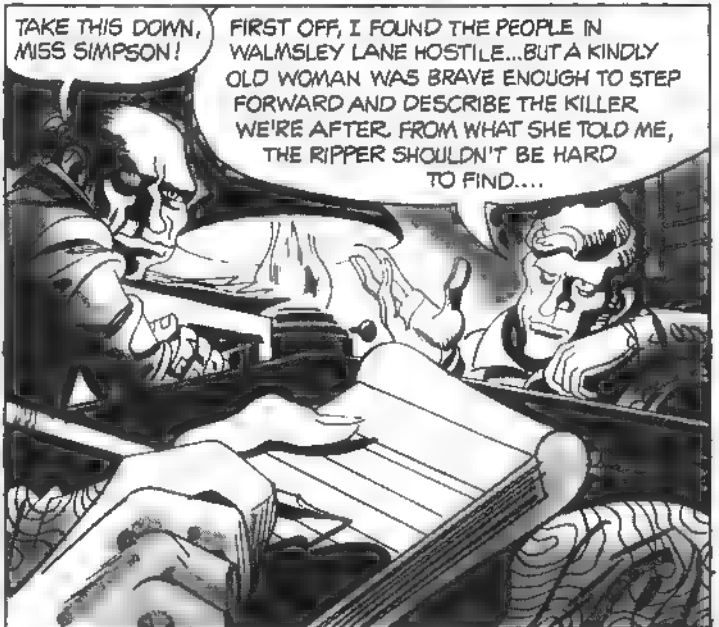


THE
FACE
OF A
CORPSE...

"JOHN BRENNER HURRIES BACK TO INSPECTOR
MARSH'S OFFICE, BURNING WITH ENTHUSIASM...."



LUCK IS WITH US, INSPECTOR!
I HAVE A DESCRIPTION OF
THE RIPPER!



TAKE THIS DOWN,
MISS SIMPSON!

FIRST OFF, I FOUND THE PEOPLE IN
WALMSLEY LANE HOSTILE...BUT A KINDLY
OLD WOMAN WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO STEP
FORWARD AND DESCRIBE THE KILLER.
WE'RE AFTER. FROM WHAT SHE TOLD ME,
THE RIPPER SHOULDN'T BE HARD
TO FIND....

"BUT THAT NIGHT IN WALMSLEY LANE, THE RIPPER STRIKES AGAIN...."

"TWO EVIL, BLOOD-LUSTING EYES STARE OUT OF THE DARKNESS AT THEIR UNSUSPECTING PREY..."



"STEALTHILY, A SINISTER FIGURE APPROACHES FROM BEHIND..."



"HIS GLOVED HANDS CLUTCHING A GLEAMING, RAZOR-SHARP DAGGER..."



"THEN— WITHOUT WARNING—"



"HE STRIKES!"



"AGAIN AND AGAIN THE DEADLY DAGGER PLUNGES DOWNWARD..."



"...REVEALING A PECULIAR SCAR ON THE KILLER'S WRIST..."



"HIS GRISLY DEED DONE, JACK THE RIPPER FLEES INTO THE CONCEALING DARKNESS..."



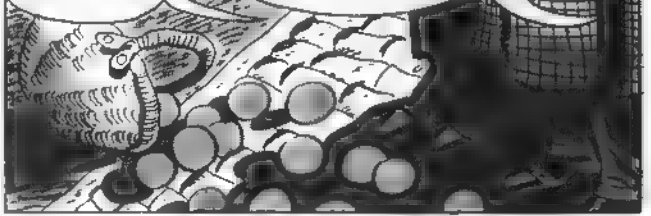
"QUICKLY SLIPPING SOMETHING UNDER HIS COAT..."



"THE FOLLOWING MORNING, INSPECTOR MARSH AND JOHN BRENNER HURRY TO WALMSLEY LANE..."

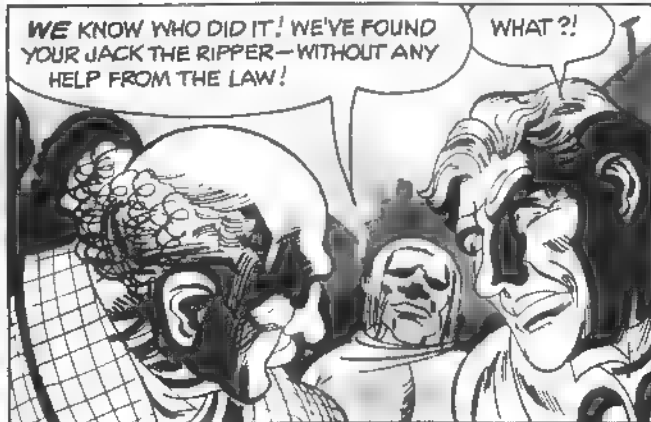
IT'S THE OLD WOMAN WHO HELPED ME!

BUTCHERED JUST LIKE THE REST. WHAT MADMAN COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING?



WE KNOW WHO DID IT! WE'VE FOUND YOUR JACK THE RIPPER—WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM THE LAW!

WHAT?!



FOLLOW ME, COPPERS— IF YOU WANT TO MEET HIM IN THE FLESH!



"INSPECTOR MARSH AND JOHN BRENNER ARE LED BY THE MOB TO A DINGY, RUN-DOWN BOARDING HOUSE..."

THERE'S YOUR MURDERER, INSPECTOR!

WHA-?! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



IT'S THE JUDGEMENT DAY, MATE! YOUR NIGHTS OF BUTCHERING ARE OVER— JACK THE RIPPER!

THE RIPPER?! BUT I'M NO MURDERER! YOU CAN'T SAY I AM!



HE DOES ANSWER THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY THE OLD WOMAN. AND THAT FACE...

BUT CAN WE BE SURE HE'S THE ONE?



IS THIS PROOF ENOUGH? AND
HERE'S A BLOODY ONE!



I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD — BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! I KILLED
A DOG — YES, A DOG! IS THAT A CRIME? I SWEAR TO YOU — I DIDN'T
KILL ANYBODY! I'M INNOCENT! I'M NO MURDERER!



YOU'RE JACK THE RIPPER! AND
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR
YOUR CRIMES!

STOP IT! YOU CAN'T TAKE
THE LAW INTO YOUR
OWN HANDS!



"BUT WHEN INSPECTOR MARSH
AND JOHN BRENNER REGAIN
CONSCIOUSNESS, IT'S
TOO LATE..."



NOW
WE'LL NEVER
KNOW IF
HE REALLY
WAS THE
MAN
WE'RE
AFTER.

"ONE MONTH LATER, IN INSPECTOR MARSH'S OFFICE ..."

WELL, JOHN—THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MORE RIPPER MURDERS SINCE THAT INNOCENT MAN WAS LYNCHED IN WALMSLEY LANE... WE'RE RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED! WE'VE PICKED UP EVERY MAN WHO COULD POSSIBLY ANSWER THE DESCRIPTION WE HAVE, AND STILL NO LUCK!

WAIT! I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING....SUPPOSE THE RIPPER ISN'T A "HE" AT ALL! WHAT IF HE'S REALLY A **WOMAN**?! IT'S A CRAZY IDEA, BUT—WELL, ANYONE CAN WEAR A MASK, WHICH WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE RIPPER'S GRUESOME FACE. AND WHO CAN TELL **WHAT** SEX A FLEETING SHADOW IN THE DARKNESS IS?!?

I ADMIT IT'S A POSSIBILITY, JOHN. BUT IT'S JUST TOO PREPOSTEROUS. NO WOMAN COULD COMMIT THOSE FIENDISH CRIMES!

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT. OH—I ALMOST FORGOT! I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER CASE. I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LEAVE YOU NOW.

I'M SO SORRY YOU HAVE TO GO, JOHN—WE'RE GOING TO MISS YOU AROUND HERE. GOOD LUCK ON YOUR NEW CASE. GOODBYE.

THANK YOU, INSPECTOR. HERE'S HOPING YOU CATCH THE RIPPER SOON, WHOEVER HE—OR **SHE**—IS!

JOHN'S A GOOD MAN, BUT SOMETIMES HIS IMAGINATION GETS THE BETTER OF HIM. JACK THE RIPPER—A WOMAN INDEED! BUT STILL, I SUPPOSE WE'LL NEVER KNOW FOR CERTAIN.

NO, SIR. I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU WILL.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT, MISS SIMPSON?

OH—JUST A THOUGHT, INSPECTOR MARSH, JUST A THOUGHT...!

Knowing what we know about the young lady, it's more like a cutting remark!

POLICE

MORGUE

PROLOGUE: MY MEMORY IS OLD, BUT TIME IS OLDER!
ALTHOUGH I REMEMBER MUCH, I HAVE
FORGOTTEN MORE, OF MY BEGINNINGS I RECALL NOTHING.
OF MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE ERECT APES THAT
WOULD ONE DAY BECOME HUMANOID, I POSSESS ONLY
THE THREADS OF A FABRIC ONCE INTRICATE IN DETAIL....

YET I KNEW THE HUMANOIDS IN THEIR
PROTEAN YOUTH! AND I - A CREATURE
WITHOUT SUBSTANCE, LESS THAN A
SPECTRE... BECAME HUMANOID, AT
THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER....

AND AS THE
HUMANOIDS
GREW IN
WISDOM -
SO GREW I!
I GAVORED
ALL THEY
DID AND
COLLECTED
MY EONG
OF EXPERIENCE

...AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN - I
STOLE THE VEHICLES OF FLESH
AND BONE THAT WOULD CARRY ME
SAFELY DOWN THE AGES....

...KNOWING HIM BETTER THAN HE COULD EVER
KNOW HIMSELF, I ROSE... BECAME MASTER
OF THE HUMANOIDS!

MY ARMIES BROKE THE
EARTH WITH THEIR
TREAD. MY NAVIES NEVER
LET THE SUN LOOK DOWN
UPON A SEA I DID NOT
OWN....

ERNIE

Survivor

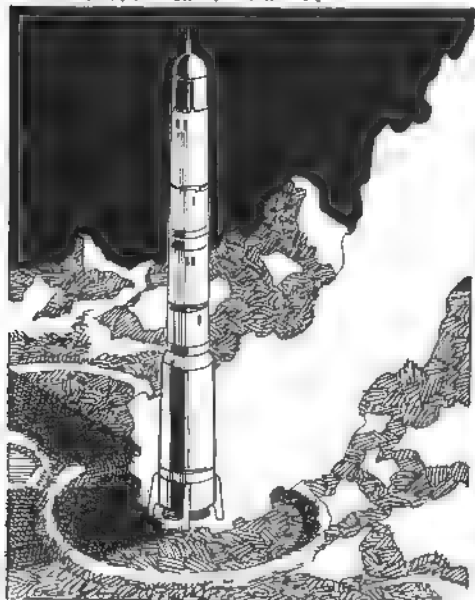
EVER BEEN ALONE? REALLY ALONE? FOR AN HOUR? A DAY... A WEEK... A THOUSAND YEARS, MAYBE? NO? WELL, THIS FELLA HAS! BUT WATCH COMPANY'S COMING COMING FROM DISTANT EARTH, COMING TO EXPOSE THIS UNCHARTED PLANET... COMING TO FIND--



AT FIRST I WAS AFRAID... AFRAID BECAUSE THIS THING I SAW WAS BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION - BEYOND ALL REASON AND SANITY! I HID MYSELF, QUIVERING IN THE DEEP SHADOWS OF A RUINED TEMPLE AND WATCHED THE SILVER TOWER BACK DOWN THE SKY ON COLUMNS OF FIRE!



THEN THE TOWER WAS DOWN, RESTING UPON THE PAVEMENT OF THE ANCIENT PLAZA... QUIETING ITS THUNDER AND BANKING ITS GREAT FIRES!



FOR A DAY AND A NIGHT THERE WAS SILENCE! I FOUND A MURID IN ONE OF MY TRAPS. WITH A SKILL BORN OF LONG PRACTICE, I SNAPPED ITS NECK, ATE IT RAW... ALL THE WHILE WATCHING THE THING IN THE PLAZA



THEN, ANOTHER DAWN, AND....

THESE WERE **HUMANOID**S. NOT LIKE THOSE I HAD KNOWN BEFORE THE ALL-DESTROYING PLAGUES, BUT CLOSE... FASCINATINGLY CLOSE...

SCOTT, WE'LL ERECT THE ORGANONS AND DATA INGESTORS HERE -

INCREDIBLE! ALL THESE RUINS - AND NOT A LIVING SOUL!



MY BLOOD RACED! HERE MIGHT BE MY CHANCE! NEW BODIES - NEW LIFE...

THAT'S ONE REASON WE'RE HERE, BELLA - TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FORMER POPULATION!



IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR LANGUAGE - THAT WOULD COME THE MOMENT I POSSESSED ONE OF THEIR **BODIES**!

HOW ABOUT A STROLL AMONG THE SCENIC WONDERS, BELLA?

NO THANKS, SCOTT - WE'VE WORK TO DO!



I HAD ONLY TO CHOOSE THE **STRONGEST**, THE MOST **AGGRESSIVE**....

DAMN THE WORK! THAT'S ALL YOU THINK OF!

-AND I NEEDN'T REMIND YOU OF WHAT YOUR THOUGHTS DWELL ON!



MEMORIES FLOODED BACK AS I FOLLOWED THE **HUMANOID**S THROUGH THE DEAD RUINS OF MY ANCIENT CAPITOL..... MEMORIES OF **POWER-GLORY**....

I MEAN IT, SCOTT - IF YOU MUST FOLLOW ME, KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF!

AH, COME ON, NOW BELLA - YOU'VE GOT ME **WRONG**!



THE FEMALE STRUCK ME AS RATHER GROTESQUE IN FEATURES, BUT THAT WOULD CHANGE ONCE I ASSIMILATED THE TASTES OF HER MALE COMPANION...



HOWEVER, NOW I WANTED THE MALE ALONE - LOST IN THE MAZE OF RUINS, WHERE ALL THE ADVANTAGES WOULD BE MINE....



BUT HOW TO GET HIM ALONE? IN THE END, HE PROVIDED THE SITUATION HIMSELF!



GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU DEGENERATE BOON!



IN A MOMENT, THE FEMALE FLED, LEAVING THE ANGRY MALE BEHIND....

WELL, ILL BE #@!!*! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!



DURING THE CENTURES OF MY LONELINESS, I HAD PERFECTED THE ABILITY TO PROJECT A FALSE IMAGE -





BUT IT WAS MORE THAN AMUSEMENT - IT WAS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL - MINE! I HOPED I HAD COPIED THE FEMALE'S ANATOMY CAREFULLY ENOUGH!

SLOW DOWN, KITTEN - I WON'T HURT YOU!

ONLY MY INTENSE WILL KEPT ME GOING. THAT SAME WILL THAT MADE MY FRAIL BODY ENDURE A DOZEN LIFE SPANS....



...BUT EVEN MY WILL COULD NOT KEEP MY OLD BODY ALIVE FOREVER - I NEEDED ANOTHER... SOON...



WHEEZING, MY HEART POUNDING, I SCRAMBLED INTO POSITION... AND WAITED -



HEY, SWEETIE - COME OUT AND SCOTT'LL GIVE YOU A BIG SURPRISE!



... I KNOW YOU'RE HERE SOMEWHERE...



I SWUNG THE CLUB WITH ALL MY STRENGTH, FEARING EVEN ALL MY MIGHT - WOULD BE TOO LITTLE...



BUT HE CRUMPLED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS! I CROAKED WITH GLEE!

...NOW ONLY ONE THING REMAINED TO DO.... MURDER MY OLD BODY AND RELEASE MYSELF FROM ITS HOLD....

THEN I INVADDED SCOTT'S BODY--MY NEW BODY! I KNEW HIS THOUGHTS, I SHARED HIS DESIRES, AMBITIONS....

MY IRON KNIFE CUT DEEP! THE BODY DIED AND I FLOATED FREE--FOR ONLY A MOMENT....

I HAD CHOSEN WELL! THE BODY WAS YOUNG, VIBRANT! THIS WAS THE FIRST STEPPING-STONE TO THE CONQUEST OF THE MANY WORLDS I HAD ONLY NOW DISCOVERED! BUT FOR NOW I WOULD DO ONLY A SMALL THING TO TEST MYSELF--I WOULD GO TO BELLA AND SUCCEED WHERE SCOTT HAD FAILED! YET--WHEN I COMMANDED MY BODY TO RISE....

...LONG MINUTES PASSED .. AND I KNEW--KNEW THE ANSWER....

M-MY MUSCLES... THEY DON'T--WON'T RESPOND! BUT THEY HAVE TO--THEY MUST!

I'M PARALYZED! THAT BLOW STRUCK TOO HARD... AT THE SPINAL COLUMN--ALL MUSCLE CONTROL GONE! FOREVER!

...AND NOW... THE MURIDS ARE COMING... BROUGHT BY THE SMELL OF BLOOD... COMING FOR THE FLESH THAT CAN'T ESCAPE! THE OTHERS WON'T FIND ME HERE--AND THE MIND OF A MURID IS TOO SMALL TO CONTAIN ME! WHEN THIS BODY IS DESTROYED.... THERE WILL BE....

"RATZ!" I'LL BET THAT'S WHAT OUR FRIEND IS SAYING RIGHT NOW! BUT, REEK SEEKERS, SOMETIMES THE BEST Laid PLANS OF MURIDS AND MEN... AND ALIEN CREATURES, GO ASTRAY-- INTO A DEAD END!



NOW, FEN-FIENDS AND OTHER LNNATURAL CREATURES...COME WITH US TO A GARBAGE-LITTERED SLUM IN A MAJOR EASTERN CITY...AND MEET A FEARSOME FEMALE WITH A HEART OF GOLD...OR TINFOIL ANYWAY...A MACABRE MISS WITH--

The soft, sweet! LIPS of HELL!

A STILL NIGHT ALONG THE WHARFS...
A PLACE WHERE FEAR AND DANGER
LURK IN EACH WISP OF FOG...

...A TIME FOR PREYING...

AWRIGHT,
LADY, HOLD IT
RIGHT THERE!

SURE,
HANDSOME!





IT IS DONE,
AS IT HAS
BEEN DONE
SO OFTEN
BEFORE... A
MAN PERISHES
IN ONE FINAL,
HIDEOUS
PAROXYSM
OF PLEASURE...
AND AN AGED
WOMAN
SUDDENLY
FILLS WITH
YOUTH AND
OVERWHELMING
LOVELINESS...

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS SHE HAS ROAMED THE EARTH, USING HER BEAUTY AS A LURE-- AND SUCKING LIFE FORCE FROM THE LIPS OF HER CONQUESTS...

HER NAME IS KIJA-- AND SHE IS A **SUCCUBUS!**



PARDON ME, MISS...I CAN'T HELP NOTICIN' YOUR DRESS IS TORN! YOU IN ANY **TROUBLE?**

NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE, THANKS!

MAYBE YOU BETTER HOP IN, ANYHOW! NO CHARGE...

...IT'S **DANGEROUS** FOR A PRETTY GIRL TO WANDER AROUND THIS NEIGHBORHOOD! I OUGHTTA KNOW...I GREW UP IN IT!

JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GO' AND I'LL SEE YOU GET THERE--ON THE HOUSE!--OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY, ON THE **CAB!**

YOU'RE VERY KIND!

KIJA OBSERVES THE DRIVER... HE IS STRONG, VITAL...HE COULD PROVIDE MUCH NOURISHMENT... BUT SHE IS SATED! SO SHE CONTENTS HERSELF WITH DIRECTING HIM TO THE ROOMING HOUSE WHERE SHE CURRENTLY RESIDES...

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M BEIN' **PUSHY...** BUT I GOT A COUPLEA TICKETS TO THE FIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT! I WONDER IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO!

WHY, **CERTAINLY**, MR. POLLARD!

GREAT! I'LL PICK YOU UP AT SEVEN-THIRTY!

THERE'S SOMETHING... **SWEET...** ABOUT MR. POLLARD!--SOMETHING **GALLANT!**



HERE WE ARE! UH... BY THE WAY! MY NAME'S MICK POLLARD!

I'M KIJA... **SMITH!**



BUT ALSO SOMETHING VERY, VERY... **NOURISHING!**





AND, LATER...

KIJA... I WANT YOU TO KNOW I AIN'T GONNA TAKE THAT DIVE! MAYBE A MONTH AGO, I WOULD'A...

...BUT NOW... WELL, I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU THINKIN' *BAD* OF ME! I'M GONNA *WIN*-- FOR YOU!

YOU'RE SWEET, MICK!-- THE SWEETEST MAN I'VE EVER MET!

MY... GOOD... GOSH! WHEN WE KISSED, I FELT SOMETHIN' LIKE A *MILLION VOLTS* OF... OF LIFE...

GOODNIGHT, MICK!

THAT'S *NEVER-- NEVER* HAPPENED! NOT IN A *THOUSAND YEARS*! INSTEAD OF *TAKING THE VITAL FORCE*... I *GAVE IT*!



I SIMPLY DON'T... *UNDERSTAND*! I GAVE IT... AND I FELT *WONDERFUL*!

HEY THERE, MISSY! I GOT THE NEW SEARS, ROEBUCK CATALOG TODAY! YA WANNA *SEE*? HUH... DO YA? *PLEEZE!!*



I'D LOVE TO!



I'LL POUR US SOME ELDERBERRY WINE AN'...

HE'S POSITIVELY *REPULSIVE*! BUT A MEAL'S A MEAL...

A WEEK PASSES... A WEEK FILLED WITH STRANGE, ALIEN EMOTIONS... ALMOST AGAINST HER WILL, KITA GOES TO THE GARDEN, BUYS A TICKET, AND FINDS HERSELF WATCHING A BRUTAL SPORT THAT WAS YOUNG WHEN SHE WAS, EONS PAST...



PLEASE, MICK--
TAKE CARE OF
YOURSELF!

NOT
TO WORRY,
ANGEL!

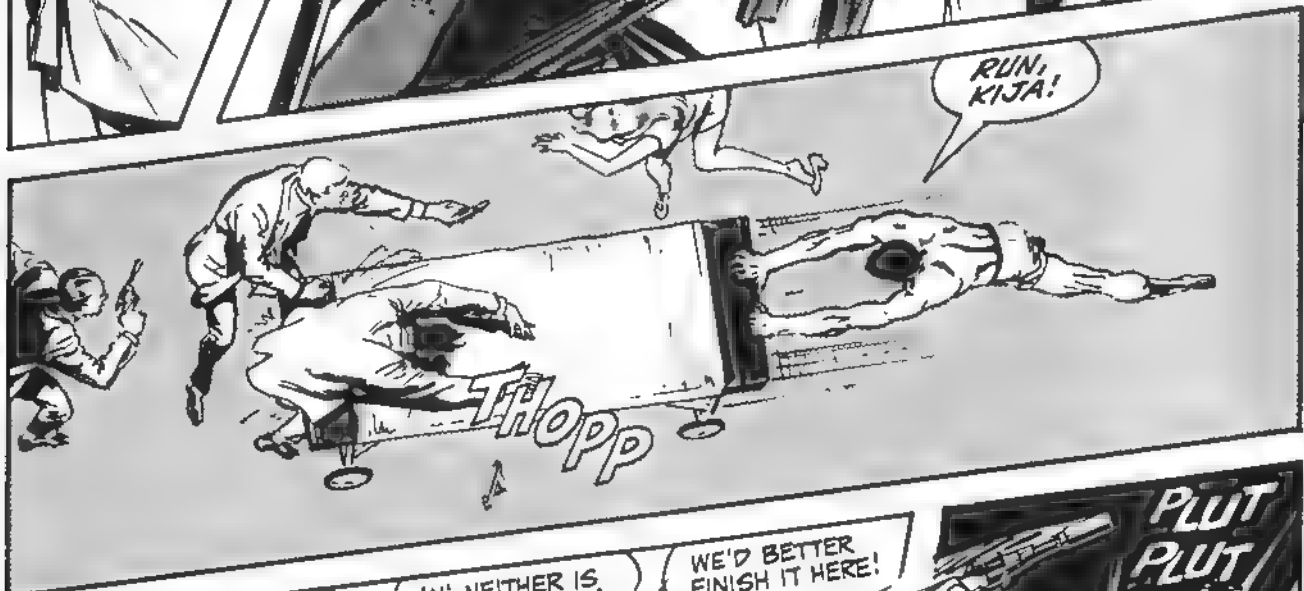


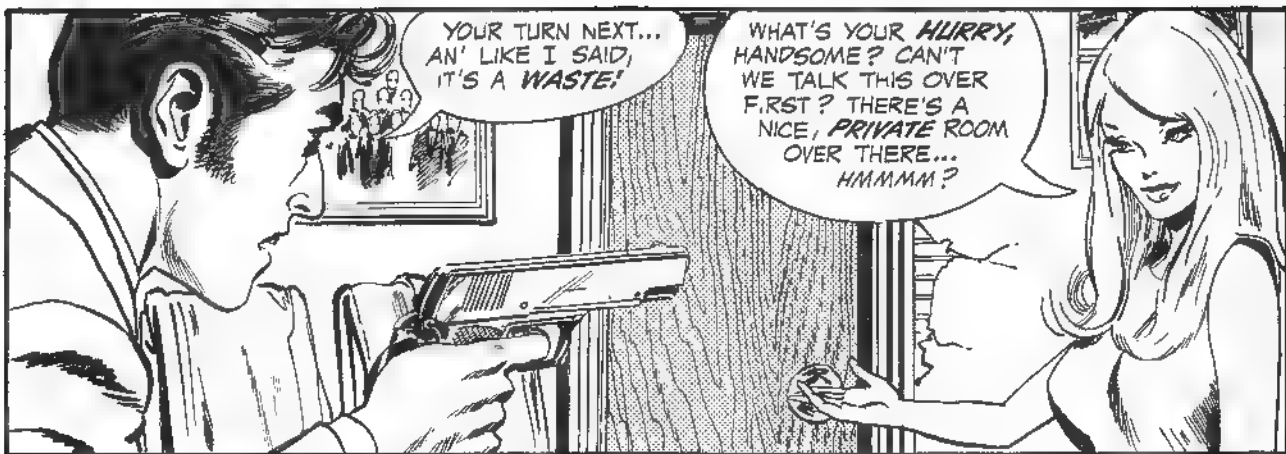
HOW'S IT FEEL TO
TAKE YOUR FIRST
BIG ONE,
MICKEY BABY?

LATER, FELLAS!
RIGHT NOW, ME AND
THE LADY WANNA
BE ALONE!

I DON'T
BLAME YOU,
YOU LUCKY
PUG!











TAKE IT,
DEAREST--
TAKE IT
ALL!



WHEN IT IS OVER, NOTHING LEFT BUT SOMETHING--
MICK FALLS OFF THE SIDE AND CRASHES OUT--

CRIES OUT--AND RECEIVES NO ANSWER!
FOR OF THE WOMAN THAT WAS NOT A
WOMAN THERE IS NOTHING LEFT, SAVE
A FEW SCRAPS OF CLOTHING AND A
WISP OF DUST, AND A MEMORY...



TOO BAD ABOUT OUR MESMERIZED MISSY TAKING A
POWDER! IT'S SURE NO FUN GETTING **DUSTED** OFF
THAT WAY! OH WELL, COULD BE THAT DISINTERGRATED
DAMSEL WILL GET WHAT SHE WANTED AFTER ALL.
MAYBE SHE OUGHT TO **ASH** HER
BOYFRIEND ABOUT IT. SNIGGLE...

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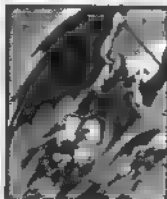
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VAMPIRELLA

BACK ISSUES

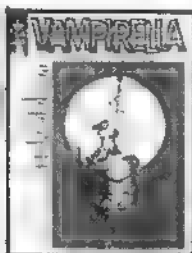
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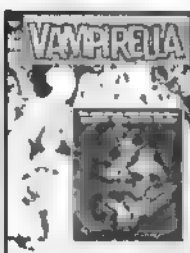
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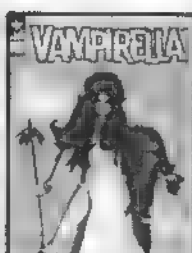
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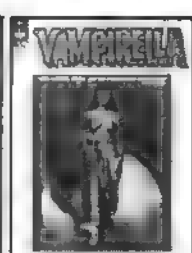
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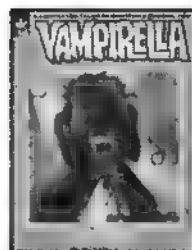
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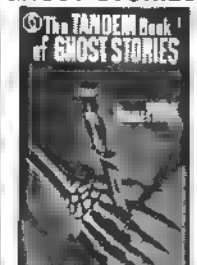
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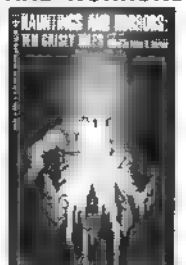
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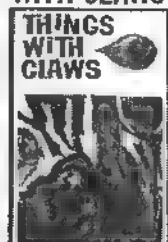
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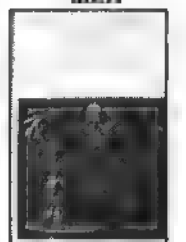
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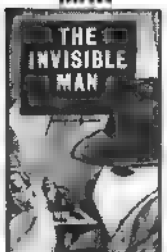
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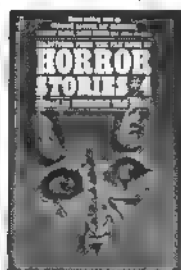
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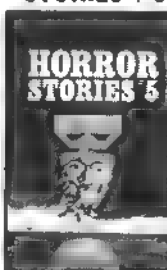
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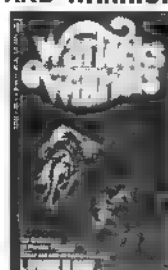
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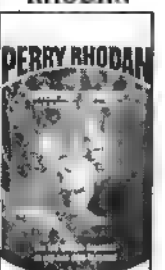
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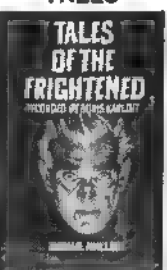
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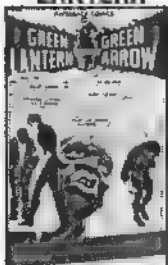
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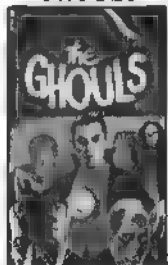
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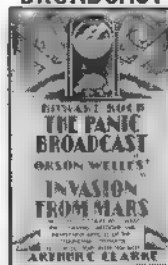
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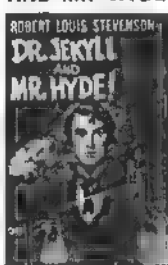
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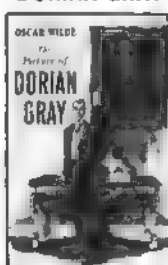
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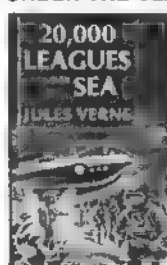
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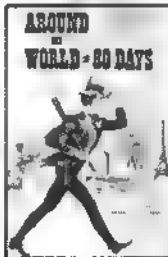
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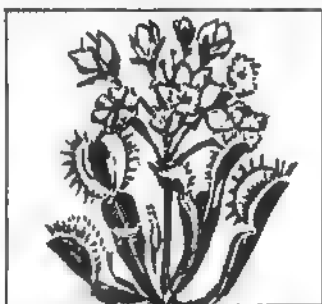
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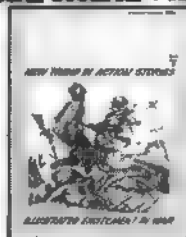
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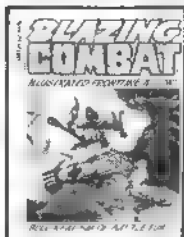
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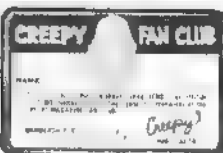
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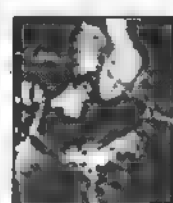
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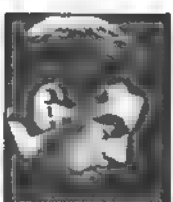
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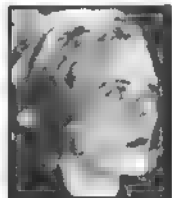
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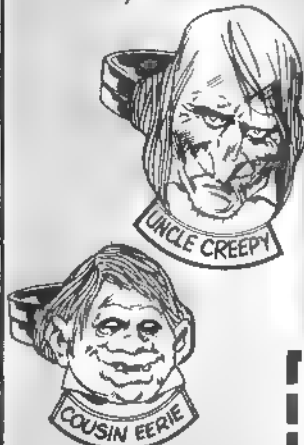
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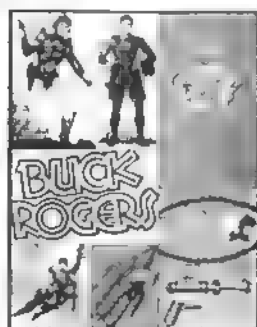
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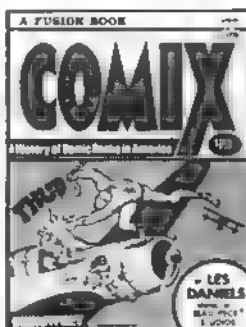
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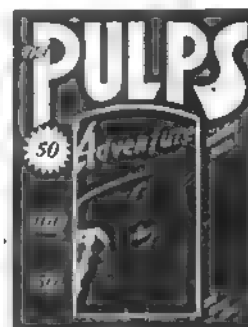
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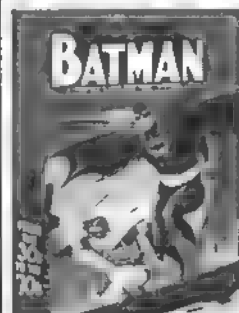
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IN ANCIENT EGYPT, TIME SLIDES ALONG AS SLOWLY AS THE FUNERAL BARGE CARRYING THE REMAINS OF **RAMSES I** DOWN THE RIVER NILE. LIFE HERE COUNTS FOR NOTHING; ONE PASSES THROUGH IT BRIEFLY PREY TO POISONS, SICKNESS, TREACHERY, MURDER, AND THE WHIMS OF UNCOUNTABLE GODS, BOTH GOOD AND EVIL; THEN IN A WINK IT IS OVER, AND **DEATH... IS FOREVER.** DEATH IS EVERYTHING. LIKE ALL EGYPTIANS, THE OLD KING RAMSES SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE BUILDING AND FURNISHING HIS TOMB. AND TO IT HE FLOATS NOW, STILL, SERENE, AND QUIET—AS HE WILL BE FOREVERMORE.



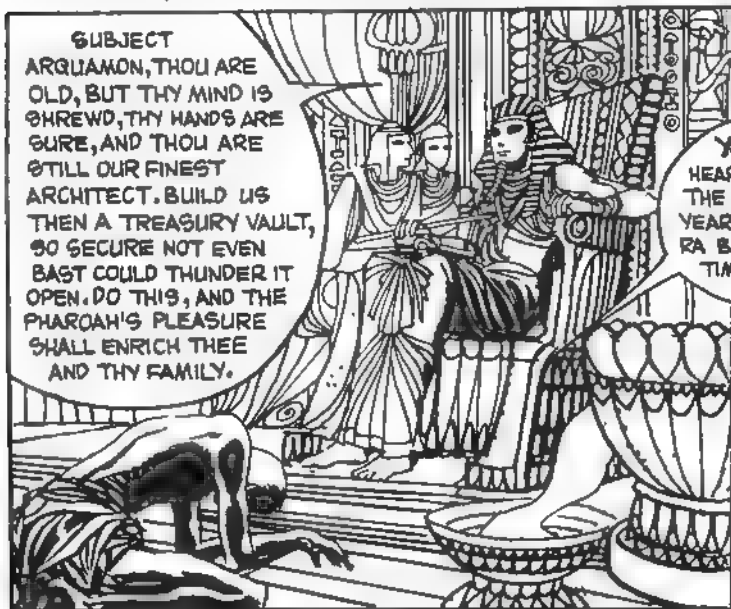
THE SILVER THIEF AND THE PHAROAH'S DAUGHTER

RAMSES HAS LEFT HIS SON, HOWEVER, A VAST INHERITANCE OF CONQUEST, AND **EMPIRE** THAT STRETCHES FROM DUSKY KUSH IN THE SOUTH TO FAR PERSIA IN THE NORTH. AS UNIMAGINABLE TREASURES POUR INTO MEMPHIS ON OXEN, CAMELS, AND ELEPHANTS, **RAMSES II** SEEKS TO SECURE HIS RICHES.

SUBJECT
ARQUAMON, THOU ARE
OLD, BUT THY MIND IS
SHREWD, THY HANDS ARE
SURE, AND THOU ART
STILL OUR FINEST
ARCHITECT. BUILD US
THEN A TREASURY VAULT,
SO SECURE NOT EVEN
BAST COULD THUNDER IT
OPEN. DO THIS, AND THE
PHAROAH'S PLEASURE
SHALL ENRICH THEE
AND THY FAMILY.

YOUR SLAVE
HEARS, O SON OF
THE SUN, AND
YEARNS TO OBEY, IF
RA BUT LEAVES HIM
TIME ON EARTH
TO.

BUT HEED ME,
OLD MAN! IF EVER A TOKEN,
SO MUCH AS A **SHECKEL**, IS
STOLEN FROM THIS VAULT WHILE YOU
YET LIVE, THY SPIRIT SHALL BE
RIVEN SHREIKING FROM THY FLESH,
AND THY BODY STRUNG UP, FOOD FOR
THE CROW. UNEMBALMED, YOUR
SOUL PERFORCE SHALL WANDER
IN ALLEYS OF MADNESS
FOREVER.



MY LORD, THESE
OLD HANDS HAVE BEEN
SULLIED BY TOO MUCH MONEY
IN MY LONG LIFE. THY TREASURY
SHALL BE BUILT INTO THE CITY
WALL ITSELF, WITH STONE
AND MORTAR, AND NO ONE
IN EGYPT SHALL ENTER
IT WITHOUT THE
KING'S SEAL.

WITH HIS OWN HANDS OLD ARQUAMON BUILT RAMSES' NEW
TREASURY. STRAINING HIS OLD MUSCLES HIS ANCIENT
JOINTS ACHING, HE FORMED IT BLOCK BY BLOCK AND LAID
IT TRUE...

WITH STEADY HANDS HE MORTARED THE NEW WALL,
MAKING IT STRONG AND SAFE AS HE KNEW HOW,
AFTER A LIFETIME OF MASONRY...

...BUT HE KNEW
NOT THAT NEITHER OF MY
SONS IS IN EGYPT, BUT OFF
WITH THE ARMY IN FARAWAY
BABYLON. BUT WHENSOEVER
THEY RETURN, THIS
BLOCK-YEA, EVER SO SLIGHTLY
LOOSE - SHALL MAKE
THEM RICH!

THERE!
IMMOVABLE
AS ASTARTE IN
HEAVEN! AS I TOLD
PHAROAH, NO ONE IN
EGYPT COULD
BREAK IN HERE...

YEARS YET PASSED, DURING WHICH PHAROAH PROSPERED AND ARGUAMON KEPT HIS SILENCE. AT LENGTH, THOUGH, AS THE TIME AT LAST DREW NEAR...



KEPHYR, ALCOM, MY SONS - COME HITHER, I WOULD PASS A WORD WITH THEE BEFORE MY DEATH - RAFT BEACHES FOR ME.

...AND NOW YOU KNOW EVERYTHING. BE SLY, LADS, AND TAKE CARE. NOW LEAVE ME - I WOULD BE ALONE WHEN AT LAST I FEEL THE CLAWS OF THE REAPER-HAWK.



THUS OLD ARGUAMON'S BODY WAS NO SOONER SAFE AT THE EMBALMER'S, BEGINNING ITS SEVENTY-DAY PURIFICATION TREATMENT, THAN HIS SONS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE TREASURY HE HAD BUILT, YEARS BEFORE.



OSIRIS! LOOK AT THIS WEALTH, ALCOM! WE'RE RICH! I WANT THAT GOLDEN IMAGE OF CREOPS THERE, TO BEGIN WITH... AND THAT RUBY HEALING-AMULET...

CONTAIN YOURSELF, KEPHYR. FATHER SAID TO ROB ONLY THE SILVER URNS, AS OUR BEST CHANCE TO AVOID DETECTION.



I DON'T LIKE THIS, KEPHYR! MAYBE THE OLD MAN WAS DELERIOUS...

HEST! THIS IS IT! IT MOVES!



LOOK AT THAT! WE'LL NEVER WORK AGAIN! WE CAN BUY A PALACE AND A HUNDRED SLAVES. WE'LL HAVE THE BIGGEST FUNERALS SINCE CHEOPS.

MOTHER, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT. FATHER BUILT A VAULT BIG ENOUGH FOR THE WEALTH OF SEVEN KINGDOMS, AND PHAROAH'S FILLED IT TO THE BRIM!

BUT FOR ALL HIS WEALTH, PHAROAH WAS A PARSIMONIOUS RULER. IT TOOK NOT MANY MORE RAIDS ON HIS SILVER URN BEFORE...

PHEQUES, THOU ART CHANCELLOR OF OUR EXCHEQUER. DURING THE MOON OF THE IBIS THIRTY TALENTS WERE DEPOSITED IN THE SILVER URN. YET NOW, HALF THROUGH THE MOON OF THE SERPENT, WE FIND OURSELVES TEN TALENTS WANTING. WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU EAT IT, FAT FOOL?

MY-MY LORD! SCION OF THE NILE, I-I AM AT A LOSS TO ACCOUNT... SURELY SOME MISTAKE... HOLINESS, THE DOOR-SEAL HAS NOT BEEN BROKEN, I SWEAR! THE GUARDS REPORT NOTHING. PERHAPS IF YOU COUNTED AGAIN...

COUNT AGAIN! IDIOT, TOMORROW WE SHALL COUNT ONE MORE HEAD ON A SPIKE BY THE CITY GATES, AND IT SHALL BE THINE! TAKE THE FAT FOOL TO THE HEADSMAN, GUARDS!

OH, AND JUST IN CASE HE TELLS THE TRUTH, MEN-WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH HIM, RETURN HERE AND SET UP A TRAP THAT SLAYS NOT, BUT KEEPS THE VICTIM FAST. MEANWHILE, I GO TO RAISE THE TAXES TO AFFRAY THE TREASURY'S LOSS.

BROTHER, I LIKE THIS LESS EACH TIME WE MAKE A RAID. PHAROAH'S RAISED THE TAXES, THAT MAY MEAN HE'S SUSPICIOUS.

THAT MAY BE SO, BUT THIS LAST RAID GIVES US ENOUGH TO HIRE A GALLEY AND FLEE FOR GREECE, WITH A GENEROUS BOOTY. THE WOMEN THERE I HEAR HAVE YELLOW HAIR, AND THEIR THIGHS...

SNAP!

AOW! ALCOM, I'VE BEEN SEIZED! I'M CAUGHT!



A TRAP!
BUT WHY A MERE
WRIST-CATCHER,
AND NOT A
FATAL DEADFALL,
OR A FALLING
BLADE...

ALCOM,
MY ARM...IT
KNOTS...AND
MY LEGS!
I CAN'T
MOVE!

BUT THE PHAROAH'S MAGE WAS WELL-VERSED IN
LORE OF POISONS...



AH, THE BLADE
WAS SMEARED WITH
CURARE, LIKE THE
WAR-ARROWS OF
KUSH!

BUT-BUT WEAKENED
CURARE...I CAN STILL...
IF I TRY... MOVE MY LIPS.
I STILL LIVE, BUT...HELP
ME OUT-OF HERE,
ALCOM!



CURSE IT,
YOU'RE TOO STIFF!
I'LL NEVER ANGLE
YOU OUT OF HERE
IN ONE PIECE. WE'RE
STUCK UNTIL
THE KING
COMES.

TO THE EGYPTIANS, DEATH CAME AS
SWIFTLY AND CASUALLY AS THE STING OF
VAHA THE SERPENT. AND EVEN THE
MADDENED CAREERING OF AN UNEM-
BALMED SOUL COULD BE EVENTUALLY
EXPATIATED BY PRAYER AND SACRIFICE...

AND SO...



PERHAPS SO,
PERHAPS NOT. YOU
COULD...LEAVE, BROTHER-
BUT SO SOON AS-AS HE
RECOGNISES MY FACE-THE
SON OF HIS BUILDER...HE'LL
BE AFTER-THE WHOLE
FAMILY. THE ONLY...ONLY WAY:
TAKE MY FACE WITH
YOU!

...AND KEEP THEM
WATCH AMONG THE CROWD:
IF ANYONE WEEPS, SEIZE
THE VARLET AND BRING HIM
BEFORE US. PERCHANCE HE'LL
BE RELATED TO THIS
ESCOUNDEREL CUTPURSE
FELON.



THIS- IS THE WAY
YOU TREAT YOUR
MOTHER!? 'WE'LL BE
RICH,' YOU SAID! 'WE'LL
GO TO GREECE! A
COMFORT IN YOUR
AGE!' A COMFORT
THIS IS SUPPOSED
TO BE?

I HAVE ONE LESS SON!
POOR KEPHYR HEADLESS, AND NOT
EVEN EMBALMED! WITHOUT A
TOMB, HE WALKS AMONG
GIBBERING FIENDS AND SCREAMING
DEMONS THROUGH
QUICKSAND AND
HURRICANE! ALCOM,
I WANT THAT
BODY FOR THE
EMBALMERS!

MOTHER,
BE
REASONABLE.

IF I DON'T GET THAT BODY,
I TELL THE KING EVERYTHING.
MY SON WILL BE PROPERLY
LAID OUT, OR WE'LL ALL HANG
AND WONDER WITH HIM!
THIS I SWEAR BY KOTH
THE HIPPO-GODDESS.

LEND ME TIME,
MOTHER. I MUST
THINK ON IT...

NEXT DAY...

GEE! HAW!
ENOUGH OF YOUR
SILLINESS, MULE! GET
A MOVE ON! MAYBE
A CRACK ON THE
RUMP'LL MOVE
YOU!

CRACK!



WHOA!
BY THE BREASTS
OF NEPHERTITI,
DOWN, YOU
ROGE!

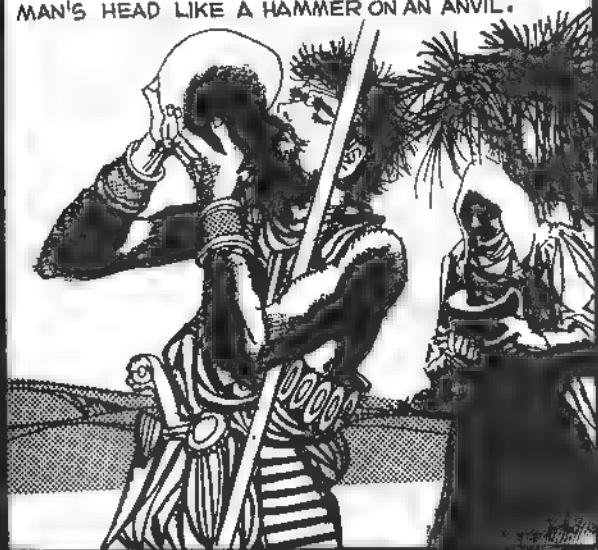


FLOOSH!





AND ON A HOT DAY IN EGYPT, WINE HITS A MAN'S HEAD LIKE A HAMMER ON AN ANVIL.



AND NIGHT IN EGYPT FALLS
LIKE THE BEAT OF A STICK ON
SOME VAST BLACK DRUM...



AND AT NIGHT...

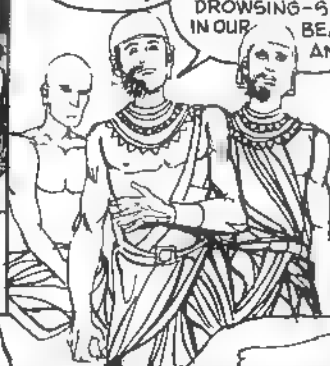


...WHO KNOWS WHAT
DEVILTRY IS COMMITTED?



**LOST THE
BODY?!!** BY HORUS,
I'LL HAVE THY HIDES! FORTY
LASHES APEICE, AND HARDTACK FOR
A WEEK! BY THE WAR-CHARIOT OF
RA, WHAT FOOLS LET A THEIF STEAL
A CORPSE FROM
UNDER THEIR
SODDEN
NOSES?

'T WAS NO THEIF,
PHAROAH. BUT A
MAGICIAN. HE CAST A
DROWSING-SPELL
IN OUR BEARDS, AND-

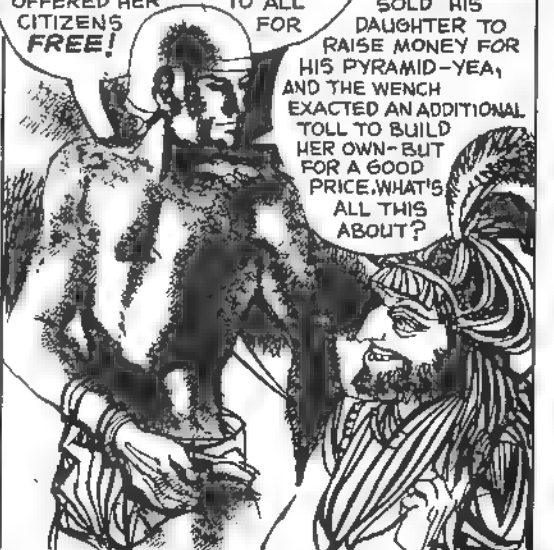


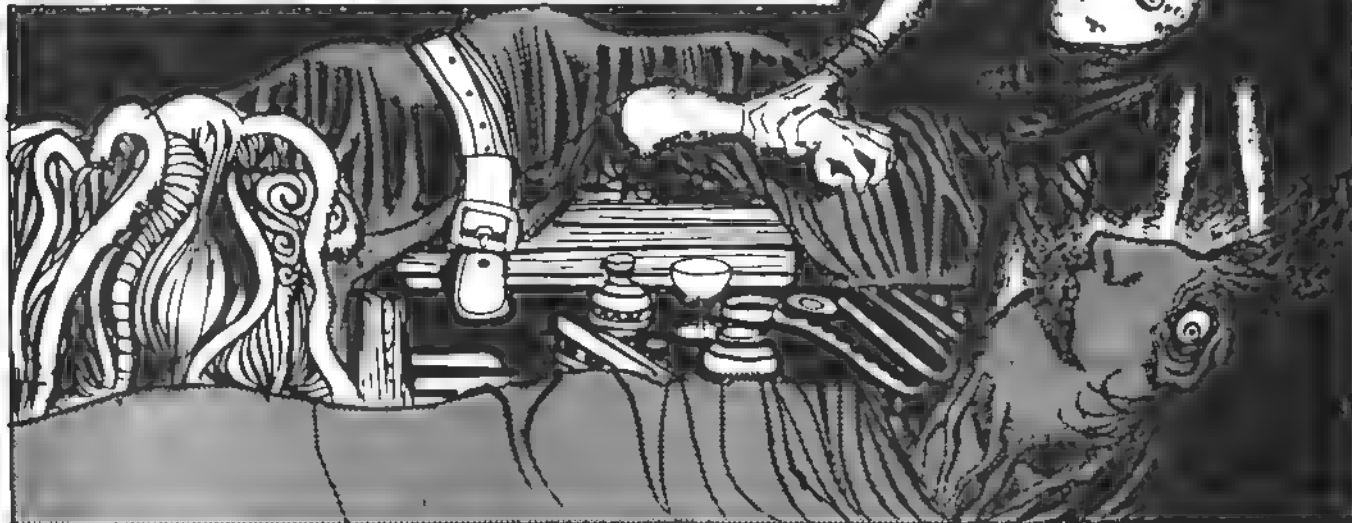
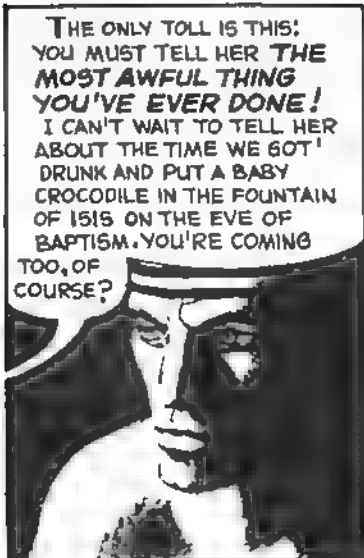
A MAGICIAN?
A SHREWD YOUTH, MORE
LIKELY, AND A FORMER
SOLDIER TO BOOT, BY THE
LOOKS OF IT. HOW TO TRAP
A SOLDIER? HMMM...
ONE BAIT'S THE TRAP WITH
SOMETHING
PRETTY...

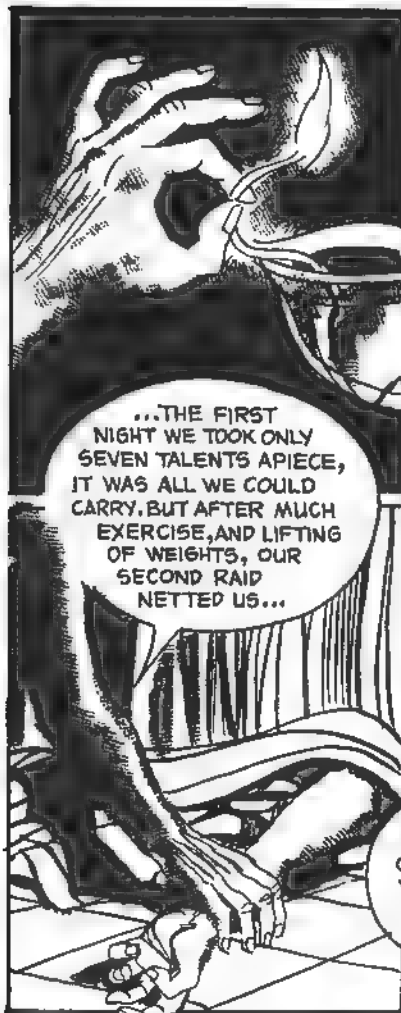


DID YOU HEAR THE CRYER,
ALCOM? RAMSES HAS GONE
GIBBERING MAD-HE'S PLACED
HIS DAUGHTER IN THE CITY'S
BIGGEST BROTHEL, AND
OFFERED HER TO ALL
CITIZENS
FREE!

FREE?
CLIEOPS
SOLD HIS
DAUGHTER TO
RAISE MONEY FOR
HIS PYRAMID-YEA,
AND THE WENCH
EXACTED AN ADDITIONAL
TOLL TO BUILD
HER OWN-BUT
FOR A GOOD
PRICE, WHAT'S
ALL THIS
ABOUT?







...THE FIRST NIGHT WE TOOK ONLY SEVEN TALENTS APIECE, IT WAS ALL WE COULD CARRY. BUT AFTER MUCH EXERCISE, AND LIFTING OF WEIGHTS, OUR SECOND RAID NETTED US...



AND NOW IN PAYMENT, PRINCESS OF THE SUN, LET ME TELL YOU OF MY CRIMES. MY FATHER, NOW DEAD, WAS A GREAT ARCHITECT...



...DISGUISED AS A WINE MERCHANT, I RIGGED THE SPOUT ON ONE OF MY SKINS SO IT WOULD BREAK OPEN AS I PASSED THE GUARD BY KEPHYR'S BODY...



GUARDS! LIGHTS! TORCHES! HE'S CAUGHT!!





WHAT DID
I DO TO DESERVE
THIS? MY SON,
NOT ONLY A FELON,
BUT HE **ADMITS**
IT TO THE
PRINCESS!

HUSH!
THE BOAT
SHOULD BE
READY, GO IF
WE'RE QUIET-
HOLD! WHAT'S
THIS SIGN?

IT SAYS, 'BY ORDER OF
THE PHAROAH, CLEMENCY
IS HEREBY GIVEN THE SILVER
THIEF. IF HE WILL BUT STEP
FORWARD AND IDENTIFY HIMSELF,
HE FURTHERMORE GETS THE
**PRINCESS' HAND IN
MARRIAGE AND HALF THE
KINGDOM!...** IF HE BUT
PROMISES TO BECOME THE
KING'S NEW VIZIER...



YES, THE PHAROAH, SHREWD ENOUGH TO REALISE
THAT ANY MAN AS CLEVER AS HIS SILVER THIEF
DESERVED NOT DEATH BUT A HIGH GOVERNMENT POST,
TOOK ALCOM INTO HIS HOUSEHOLD. TOGETHER, THEY
GREATLY ENRICHED THE DYNASTY, AND ADDED TO
THE GLORY AND SPLENDOR THAT WAS EGYPT. AND
THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER, UNTIL DEATH
CAME TO CLAIM THEM.



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PREVIEW of VAMPIRELLA Next Issue



WITH

TOMB OF THE GODS



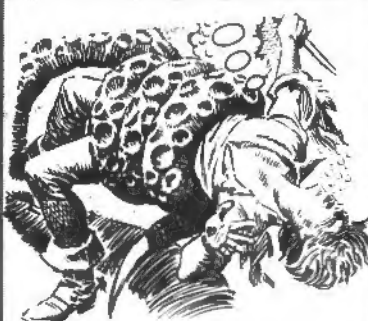
THE GENDER BENDER

The third fantastic "Tomb of the Gods" tale, written and drawn by Esteban Maroto! Visit, if you dare, that private world of the Id where the forces of life & death battle!

AND

vengeance, BROTHER, vengeance!

A mind-bending tale of the distant and mystic past when sorcerers held sway!



PLUS

VAMPIRELLA IN WHEN WAKES THE DEAD!



The blood-curdling conclusion to this issue's "Shadow of Dracula!" as Lucy Westenra awakes from the sleep of the dead and Dracula awaits, lurking in the shadows, ready to lead his legions of the dead once again!

ON SALE AUGUST 22nd!

VAMPI-FY YOUR NEWSSTAND

Are you having trouble finding CREEPY, EERIE, VAMPIRELLA or FAMOUS MONSTERS at your newsstand? Gnashing your fangs because you find the last copy sold out? Just fill out the coupon below and send it to us TODAY! The problem will be taken care of, and we'll thank you from the bottom of our black little hearts!

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EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VAMPIRELLA BUT NOBODY EVER TOLD YOU... CONTINUED FROM INSIDE FRONT COVER!

"Carnival of the Damned!", Adam has never been able to bring himself to drive a stake through VAMPIRELLA's heart.

Both Adam and VAMPIRELLA are torn by instincts of their own; VAMPIRELLA by her need for blood (she lives on a bottled serum) and Adam by his heritage of vampire killing. Her constant fears that her vampirism will go completely out of control and thereby include Adam in its wake seemed to come true in T. Casey Brennan's first VAMPIRELLA script, "Beware, Dreamers!" in VAMPIRELLA #17.

Trapped in the world of the Dreamslayer, VAMPIRELLA found herself biting Adam's neck for survival. Wracked with pain at killing Adam, VAMPI discovered that the act took place in the shadowy world of nightmarish dreams created by Ernie Johnson, a two-bit hood transformed into the Dreamslayer by the forces of Chaos.

Though their love for each other has grown steadily since "Carnival of the Damned!", the introduction of Count Dracula at the end of "The Resurrection of Papa Voudou!" (VAMPIRELLA #15) has altered their relationship, perhaps irrevocably.

In "Dracula Still Lives!" (VAMPIRELLA #18), VAMPI realized



The splash page from "Death's Dark Angel" in VAMPIRELLA #12 as rendered by artist Jose Gonzalez. Gonzalez' first VAMPIRELLA story.

more than ever before the killer that lies just beneath her nature. Sent on a mission to destroy Dracula through the mystic powers of Conrad Van Helsing, VAMPIRELLA found herself unable to. "I am unable to kill him," she said, "for I too have done evil, and I too am the helpless pawn of the forces which govern me! Perhaps he does deserve to die but I cannot kill him!"

In "And be a Bride of Chaos" (Goodwin's last VAMPIRELLA script), it was revealed that Dracula, like VAMPIRELLA, is a native Drakulonian, given powers out of the ordinary by the forces of Chaos.

Throughout the series, VAMPIRELLA has faced a fantastic and blood-curdling array of villains, the likes of which have never before appeared in the history of comics. The veritable battery of horror-spawned villains includes VAMPI's Cousin Evily seen in the story "Evily" from

VAMPIRELLA #2; Tyler Westron, his nurse Lenore and the mighty forces of Chaos from "Who Serves the Cause of Chaos" in VAMPIRELLA #8; Mrs. Jethryn, her cat Jet and her son Lepny from "The Testing!" in VAMPIRELLA #9. The character of Pendragon, an aging magician, was introduced in "Carnival of the Damned!" in VAMPIRELLA #11.

Since VAMPIRELLA #12, Pendragon and the Van Helsing have been her constant, if at times unwilling companions, as she faced such monstrous entities as W.W. Wade and Skaar, the angel of death in "Death's Dark Angel" from VAMPIRELLA #12; the creature Demogorgan known as "The Lurker in the Deep" from VAMPIRELLA #13; Vivienne, the female werewolf in "Isle of the Huntress" from VAMPIRELLA #14; and Papa Voudou, the living zombie, in "The Resurrection of Papa Voudou" from VAMPIRELLA #15.

What's in store for VAMPIRELLA's future? The continuing menace of Dracula in "When Wakes The Dead," the next VAMPIRELLA story for VAMPIRELLA #20. After that? Conrad Van Helsing's crystal ball is cloudy but we see VAMPIRELLA trapped on a sand-like world, without serum, and face-to-face with a huge snail-like creature in VAMPIRELLA #21.

Besides the ever-present menace of Chaos, VAMPIRELLA's readers can also look forward to joining her new and fantastic Fan Club. For details, see page 61 of this issue.

In the latter part of 1972, Warren Publishing will offer a VAMPIRELLA 33 rpm record album, costing about \$5.00. VAMPI's adventures will be immortalized in the tradition of Orson Welles' old Mercury Theatre, the group which brought the American public H.G. Wells' in-

famous "War of the Worlds" in 1938.

The album will have a knockout cover with the same exciting artwork that graces the covers of VAMPIRELLA. The record itself will feature a narration of one of her most exciting adventures just as it originally appeared in print.

Color posters of VAMPIRELLA done by Gonzalez will also be available later this year.

Plans are also underway for a full-length motion picture. Musing on the translation of VAMPIRELLA into movies, Warren mentioned that if Creepy or Eerie were ever cast, John Carradine would be a perfect Creepy, while Peter Lorre or Charles Laughton, if either were still alive, would make a great Eerie. He also mentioned Paula Prentiss and Raquel Welch as likely candidates for the coveted role of VAMPIRELLA—a girl whose time has arrived!



VAMPIRELLA and Adam



Raquel Welch a perfect VAMPIRELLA?

If you won't send in this coupon, shut up about the war.

You, who say all the right things about the war, but won't even bother to write your congressman, are prolonging the war by your inaction.

You don't think it will do any good.

But now there's a real chance it will.

Now is the time when writing your congressman could make a crucial difference.

The number of them who want to set a definite withdrawal date is growing.

So is the number of congressmen who are sitting on the fence.

You can push them off.

They will back an act of disengagement if they feel their constituencies will back them at home.

They need to hear from you. They need a pile of evidence on their desks that will make them feel they can get re-elected even if they speak out.

It's an incredible notion that after all this, filling out a simple coupon and sending it to your congressman could stop the war.

But just think. It could.

And if you're not yet old enough to vote, give this to someone who is.

To: Congressman
The House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I understand legislation is pending in Congress to end the war in Southeast Asia. As a concerned citizen, I urge you to support this legislation. If you do, you will have my support.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

City State Zip Code

For the name of your Congressman, call the League of Women Voters.
Help Unsell The War.

A Project of Clergy and Laymen Concerned, 637 W. 125th Street, New York, N.Y. 10027